

# UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE



Rome, 5-16 November 1974

## REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE ON ITS THIRD SESSION

Items 8 and 9 of the Provisional Agenda

15/1

Resumed fifty-seventh session  
Agenda item 6 (a)

WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

Report of the Preparatory Committee  
on its third session

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ABBREVIATIONS

ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

I. ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY, OR THAT ARE BROUGHT TO  
THE ATTENTION OF, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND  
THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

Economic and Social Council

1. In accordance with its decision 24 (LVII), the Economic and Social Council will consider the present report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session, together with the report of the World Food Conference, as soon as the report of the Conference becomes available.

World Food Conference

2. This report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session is submitted to the World Food Conference for consideration along with the basic documents on items 8 and 9 of the provisional agenda, namely "Assessment of the world food situation, present and future" (E/CONF.65/3) and "The world food situation: proposals for national and international action" (E/CONF. 65/4). Accounts of the Committee's discussion of these two items are contained in Chapters III and V respectively.

3. Annexed hereto are certain proposals which the Committee decided to transmit to the Conference for its consideration.

## II. PROGRESS REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

4. In presenting to the Committee a report of progress on preparations for the World Food Conference, the Secretary-General of the Conference noted that, since the second session of the Committee, held at Geneva from 4 to 8 June 1974, the main Conference document entitled "The world food problem: proposals for national and international action" (E/CONF.65/PRFP/13, E/CONF. 65/4) had been distributed to member governments. A revised and updated version of the document entitled "Assessment of the world food situation, present and future" had also been circulated (E/CONF.65/PRFP/12, E/CONF.65/3). He felt that the World Food Conference would be largely guided by the Preparatory Committee's views on the conclusions and proposals in those documents and on the recommendations of the Meeting of interested delegations which had deliberated on certain delegations' proposals during the week preceding the third session.

5. The world food situation, the Secretary-General reported, continued to be critical. The hopes of record wheat and grain crops which had been held earlier in the year had now faded and the uncertain performance of the monsoon in Asia had clouded the prospects for this year's rice harvest. However, policies to tackle the short-term problems of threatened famine and the development of a world food policy for the longer-run could not be logically separated.

6. Despite inevitable differences in national needs and policies, a pattern of consensus had emerged during that Meeting of interested delegations on the elements of a world food policy which rested on three main pillars:

- a) increasing food production in developing countries;
- b) improving consumption and distribution of food; and
- c) establishing a better system of world food security.

7. The Secretary-General added that all the proposals for action were based on a package approach. For instance, he pointed out that modern agricultural technology rested on the application of a combination of complementary inputs. The current fertilizer shortage was therefore threatening the realization of food production targets in a number of developing countries. Another instance, he added, was the need for investment capital, and, unless external assistance to developing countries was stepped up, it would be difficult to attain the food production goals.

8. The Secretary-General stressed that a consensus on internationally co-ordinated national stock policies and an improved food aid policy was of equal priority. The food crisis of the past two years clearly pointed to the inadequacy of the present food aid system in the face of large-scale emergencies.

9. Whatever new mechanisms were evolved to deal with the world food problem, the Secretary-General said, it was essential to achieve closer coordination and a better integration of the major functions involved. The food problem was of particular urgency, and the world could not leave its solution to the normal development process and to the routine methods of existing mechanisms.

10. In conclusion, the Secretary-General observed that the institutional framework ultimately adopted by the Conference for the follow-up of that meeting, to be effective, would have to reflect the world community's political will to eliminate the scourge of hunger. It would have to be a credible organ for mobilizing the new resources needed and speak with greater authority to both developed and developing countries than any existing mechanism.

11. At the 39th meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a communication from the Secretary-General of the World Population Conference to the Secretary-General of the World Food Conference, drawing attention to certain resolutions of the World Population Conference and the portion of the World Population Plan of Action adopted at that Conference, which have a bearing on the work of the World Food Conference.

### III. ASSESSMENT OF THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION, PRESENT AND FUTURE

12. The Preparatory Committee reviewed the world food situation and outlook on the basis of the information provided in the report by the Secretary-General of the World Food Conference entitled "Assessment of the world food situation: present and future" (E/CONF.65/PREP/12, E/CONF.65/3) and in the statements of delegates. The Preparatory Committee's review also took into account the introductory statement of the Secretariat summarizing the modifications made in the Assessment document as a consequence of the Preparatory Committee's discussion of the preliminary version at its second session. Supplementary information was provided by the FAO Secretariat on production prospects for staple food commodities in 1974.

13. The analysis and conclusions contained in the Assessment document received general support though some delegations felt that it did not fully reflect their points of view. Acknowledging the difficulty in determining the relative importance of the principal factors which had precipitated the current food crisis and notwithstanding the uncertainties inherent in making any quantitative forecast about the world food situation, most delegates of the Preparatory Committee felt that the document and the substance of the main issues raised by it provided a reasonable basis for deliberations by the Conference on proposals for national and international action to solve the world food problem. Some delegations pointed out that the great majority of figures in the report were in certain instances not based on official data and that the prognosis derived on the basis of these materials could therefore not be taken otherwise than as an attempt of the Secretariat to give its own understanding of the prospects of the world food situation. It was suggested that the analysis could be clarified by the provision of regional and even country data.

14. The Preparatory Committee agreed that the origins and causes of the current world food problem were to be sought in deep-rooted social, economic and structural problems as well as in the temporary setbacks occasioned by periodic and widespread natural disasters. Some delegations, however, contended that the fundamental cause of the world food crisis lay in the century-old oppression, exploitation and plunder by imperialist and colonialist powers. The Preparatory Committee was satisfied that the important factors which had impinged on the overall availability of food supplies had been comprehensively treated in the document. However, a number of delegates suggested that the Assessment could usefully have focused more sharply on the central causes and drawn bolder conclusions.

15. The Committee recognized that the unsatisfactory food production at the country level over recent years could not be ascribed in all instances to a common set of causes, and that the principal factors differed according to the situation of individual countries. Several delegates pointed to the damaging long-term effects of inadequate socio-economic structures on the growth of production in many developing countries and stressed the necessity of carrying out integrated rural development including radical agrarian reforms in order to improve levels of production and consumption. Several delegates emphasized that the unsatisfactory framework and conditions of international trade had comprised the main disincentive



to accelerated food production in their countries. The Committee stressed that the insufficiency both of investment in fixed capital and of such inputs as fertilizers, pesticides and adequate rural credit had been a major obstacle to more rapid food production, while a lack of investment in education and research - and the application of research through extension services - had also exacerbated the dimensions of the present crisis. They particularly felt that unless immediate action was taken to ensure availability of food grains and other essential inputs like fertilizers at reasonable prices, the situation is likely to further deteriorate and all the efforts of many years might be lost.

16. The discussion of the Committee on the possible future evolution of the world food situation covered mainly the period up to 1985. Some delegates, focusing attention on the short-term prospects, referred to the deterioration in the present supply outlook for a number of staple foodstuffs compared with the relative optimism which had prevailed earlier. They asked the Secretariat or the FAO to provide a further up-to-date survey of the short-term prospects to the Conference. These delegates believed that governments might find it necessary to give urgent priority to action to alleviate the hardships to which this situation could give rise.

17. Concerning the longer-term outlook, the Committee generally accepted the substance of the demand and supply analysis presented in document E/CONF.65/3 which pointed to a probable balance between food demand and supply for the world considered as an entity, but to a widening food gap between demand and domestic production in the developing countries as a whole, unless action was initiated to substantially accelerate the rate of growth of food production in these countries. It was emphasized, however, that such assessments of developments in demand and production over a long span of time were inherently subject to a large measure of uncertainty and that the actual magnitude of the future problem might differ widely from the quantitative results obtained in the analysis.

18. Some delegates felt that the real incomes in the majority of developing countries might grow more slowly than had been assumed by the Secretariat, which could mean that the growth of effective demand for food would be less pronounced than had been projected in the Assessment document, but famine and malnutrition would increase. In that event, the projected gap between effective or market demand and production in the developing countries would be less marked. However, the non-effective demand would increase substantially. Some delegates also considered that a change in the pattern of consumption of food in developed countries and possible tendencies away from the use of food grains for livestock feeding, particularly in developed countries, might ease the pressure on the grain market and enable the developing countries to satisfy a greater part of their food needs at a lower cost.

19. While the quantitative dimensions of the projected food gap could thus not be measured with accuracy, delegates agreed that the prospective import requirements of the developing countries, as a group, for the basic foodstuffs would be substantial and would pose a major financial, economic and social problem unless action was taken to accelerate domestic production.



20. A number of delegates, stressing the importance of population growth as a determinant of future demand for food, felt that it would have been desirable for the document to have discussed the balance between population and food requirements in greater depth. In this connection, some delegates expected the Secretariat to prepare for the World Food Conference a document outlining the major decisions of the Population Conference and drawing attention to those elements which were of particular relevance to the work of the World Food Conference. However, there was general agreement that population growth patterns other than that assumed in the document would have their greatest impact beyond the time horizon of 1985, which had been the basis of the Secretariat analysis.

21. The Committee's discussion on the longer-term outlook considered the relationships between the projected food deficits of developing countries and the assumptions which had been made concerning food production in the future. Some delegates stated that increases in food production even at the rates achieved in the decade of the sixties would now require more vigorous efforts in view of such factors as the transfer of agricultural land to other uses, problems of land degradation, and the difficulties of enhancing crop yields, due to the shortages and higher prices of essential inputs, especially fertilizers.

22. However, the Committee was unanimous in its view that, even though precise quantification of the full dimensions of the food problem of the future was not possible, there was overwhelming evidence of the urgent need for a considerable acceleration in the growth of food production in developing countries as the only viable long-term solution of the food problem.

23. The Committee also agreed that, unless the growth rates of food production achieved in the sixties could be increased, the present level of undernourishment, which was intolerably high even on the basis of conservative criteria, could become worse. Delegates highlighted the severe privation, in particular, of the unemployed in rural as well as in urban areas and of vulnerable groups, especially children. In their view, increases in food production must be accompanied by action to improve the distribution of income and food between socio-economic groups.

24. The Preparatory Committee undertook a preliminary discussion of the potentialities of increased food production, including fisheries production, drawing on its examination of the causes of past performance. Thus, various delegations stressed the importance which they attached to improvements in rural structures and agrarian reform, to technological advances, including the development of technologies which involved less dependence upon imported resources and the minimum displacement of labour, to the reduction of post-harvest losses as a means of increasing overall food supplies, and the mobilization of human resources, together with more widespread diffusion of knowledge at the farm level.

25. Many delegations stressed the importance which they attached to the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session <sup>1/</sup> for the continued reform of old and unreasonable economic relations.

26. The Preparatory Committee agreed that only by greatly intensified efforts to mobilize all available resources, physical, financial and human, would it prove possible to solve the food problem in the short and longer-term.

<sup>1/</sup> General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

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#### IV. REPORT ON THE MEETING OF INTERESTED DELEGATIONS ON SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

27. At the opening meeting of the third session of the Committee (22nd plenary meeting on 23 September 1974), Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khan (Pakistan) as Chairman of the Meeting of interested delegations on specific proposals for possible consideration by the World Food Conference made an oral report on the results of the Meeting. The statement was circulated, at the request of the Committee, as document E/CONF.65/PREP/L.7.

28. He recalled that the Committee at its second session had recommended to the Economic and Social Council that a meeting of interested delegations be convened in Rome from 16 to 20 September 1974 to consider the specific proposals mentioned in the Committee's report.<sup>2/</sup> The Economic and Social Council, at its fifty-seventh session, approved the convening of the meeting.<sup>3/</sup>

29. The meeting opened in the morning of 16 September and ended in the afternoon of 20 September after holding nine sessions with 57 delegations and 10 observers participating.

30. The meeting considered the proposals referred to it by the Preparatory Committee at its second session, as well as a new proposal. These were:

- (1) World Fertilizer Fund, proposed by Sri Lanka (E/CONF.65/4, paras 668-671);
- (2) World Bank of Food, Agricultural Inputs Supply and Research, proposed by Mexico (Annex I);
- (3) Agricultural Development Fund, proposed by Sierra Leone on behalf of the African Group (E/CONF.65/4, para 673);
- (4) World Food Security Council, World Food Bank and International Agricultural Development Fund or Bank, proposed by Bangladesh (E/CONF.65/4, paras 675-678);
- (5) Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger, a draft submitted by Peru (E/CONF.65/PREP/L.5/Add.1 and Corr.1), the text of which was subsequently revised by Peru (Annex IX); and
- (6) World Wide Information System on Food and Agriculture Situation, proposed by Japan (Annex II).

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<sup>2/</sup> E/5533, para 19.

<sup>3/</sup> E/SR.1916.

31. The Chairman reported that, during the exchange of views at the meeting, there was agreement on the following points:

- (a) An integrated approach should be adopted in solving the world food problem;
- (b) All proposals referred to above merited consideration by the Preparatory Committee as they constituted important and complementary elements of such an approach;
- (c) The Secretary-General's proposal (E/CONF.65/4) had taken account of several essentials of the individual proposals. However, it will be necessary to further examine them in order that the main elements of the proposals are fully realized through proposed follow-up action;
- (d) The main elements of a world food policy, as summarized in paragraph 655 of document E/CONF.65/4, received full support. These are the provisions of additional resources to increase food production, particularly in the developing countries, the need to improve food aid and the need to ensure greater food security;
- (e) Effective follow-up action is needed to achieve the objectives which are expected to emerge from the deliberations of the World Food Conference. Effective follow-up action will require efficient and adequate institutions. Hence, there is need for examining the possibility of improving and modifying existing institutions and/or setting up coordinative mechanisms to meet the changing requirements;
- (f) As regards the proposal for a Declaration, a Working Party should be set up to examine the Peruvian draft and any other ideas and proposals on that subject.

32. The Secretary-General's proposals regarding institutional arrangements evoked considerable interest as there was a general consensus that the establishment of a proper organizational structure to lead the United Nations and its member countries was a major issue which was bound to engage attention. In the discussion, several general principles emerged. First, there was a widespread feeling that existing organizational arrangements for channelling development aid and support to developing countries were not functioning adequately. Secondly, unnecessary proliferation of organizations should be avoided. New arrangements should only be considered where it was desired to meet well-defined existing gaps or to promote better management without duplicating an existing structure. Thirdly, additional institutional changes or arrangements might be necessary to generate new resources for agricultural development. In this context it was suggested that the Secretary-General ascertain the views of potential donors, as it was thought that their response would have a bearing on the question of institutional arrangements.

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33. During the debate wide support was expressed for the specific proposals by Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, Bangladesh, Mexico and Japan. There was also general agreement on the need for the issuance of a declaration in some form. In addition, there was widespread support for the need to tap new sources of funds to promote agricultural development. In this context, the need for substantial external assistance was underlined, though it was acknowledged that domestic resources would also have to be augmented. The suggestion was made to the effect that a consultation might be held between traditional and potential donors.

34. Several ideas were put forward during the debate suggesting improvements and modifications in order to streamline and modernize existing arrangements for channelling development assistance. These included expanded consultations amongst the donors; creation of a Consultative Group of experts; formation of a Steering Committee; expanding the coordinating role of the Economic and Social Council and of the World Food Programme; upgrading of FAO Council, and so on.

35. At the 40th meeting on 4 October 1974, the Committee took note with appreciation of the report on the Meeting of interested delegations on specific proposals for possible consideration by the World Food Conference.

V. THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM: PROPOSALS FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION

36. The Committee reviewed the proposals for national and international action presented in the Secretariat document (E/CONF.65/PREP/13, E/CONF.65/4). The Secretariat of the World Food Conference introduced each of the first four sections of the document with a brief explanation of the analysis and suggestions therein.

37. There was general agreement in the Committee that increased efforts were required to expand world food production, particularly in developing countries. To achieve that end, it was agreed that increased resources from both national and international sources would be required. It was also agreed that national governments of developing countries should give priority to agriculture in the context of their overall national plans, and donor countries and international organizations and financial institutions should give priority to agriculture in their foreign assistance programme.

38. There was general support among delegations for the Secretariat's strategy for increasing food production in developing countries which included the following elements:

- (a) making available sufficient quantities of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, water resources, high-quality seeds and improved management;
- (b) the expansion of resources for research and delivery of information and extension in general and agricultural credit so as to elaborate an appropriate technology in given conditions;
- (c) comprehensive rural development so designed as to involve people, particularly the small farmer and landless worker; and
- (d) a major increase in internal and external funds available for investment in food production development.

39. Some delegates pointed out the importance of the education of rural people in the strategy for increasing food production in developing countries.

40. Stress was also laid on the need to raise nutritional levels, especially in the vulnerable groups, and to strengthen food security.

41. Many delegates, however, pointed out that they had not received the document under consideration until just prior to the present session of the Preparatory Committee, and this factor together with the limited time available for discussion, had meant that no specific action was taken by the Committee to approve or disapprove the detailed proposals presented in the document. Some delegates emphasized that they had not received the official document in time to give it proper attention and were unable to express their views on specific proposals contained in the document.

**Section I: Measures for increasing food production in the developing countries**

42. The Committee agreed in the main with the detailed analysis of the problems facing the developing countries in accelerating the growth of their production. It was the view of the Committee that the most important issue was that of increasing production in the developing countries and it supported the main lines of the proposals set out in Chapters 1 to 8 in the document. It noted that the Secretariat's proposals included 44 specific suggestions for consideration by the World Food Conference and felt that an indication of the scale of priority to be attached to these items would help the World Food Conference to concentrate on the more important proposals. Several delegates noted that a number of the proposals related to the strengthening or expansion of the relevant activities of FAO and other agencies, and suggested that the agencies should consider these proposals in formulating their programme of work and budget in the light of the Conference's recommendations.

43. Most delegates agreed with the analysis of the objectives of production policies, national responsibilities and international cooperation and assistance as presented in Chapter I, emphasizing in particular the responsibility of the developing countries to formulate their food production objectives and goals in the context of their economic and social development planning and their population policies. Several delegates emphasized the essential nature of institutional change and of the reform of the social structure in developing countries including agrarian reforms as the essential basis of an integrated rural development encompassing all strata of the population as a prerequisite for achieving further sustained increases in food production, and eliminating hunger and malnutrition. Attention was also drawn to the problem posed by the rapid increase in population and to the need for the Conference to give due consideration to the Plan of Action adopted by the World Population Conference.

44. The Committee agreed with the document's statement of objectives of food production within the framework of economic and social goals for the short, medium and long term and with the need for international cooperation and assistance as based on paragraph 109, and felt that these objectives could be incorporated in any general declaration which the Conference might wish to adopt, leaving the specific action proposals to be dealt with in recommendations or resolutions. A few delegates questioned the usefulness of setting regional goals for food production.

45. The Committee attached special importance to the proposals in Chapter 2 regarding the short and medium term measures for increasing the supply of fertilizers, pesticides, seeds and credit, and laid particular emphasis on the contribution which these inputs would make to increasing food production in the critical short run. The Committee noted with appreciation the action taken by the FAO Council in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1836 (LVI) for setting up an International Fertilizer Supply Scheme (IFS) and the progress of its operations as reported by FAO. The IFS had so far obtained promises or pledges of a limited quantity of fertilizers; unless further supplies could be mobilized, the physical availability of fertilizers would fall far short of the urgent needs of the developing countries, particularly those most seriously affected by the recent economic crisis. The financial resources which could be



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mobilized for the purchase of fertilizers by the developing countries corresponded to at best one half of the physical supply promised to IFS. The Committee expressed concern at the precarious fertilizer situation and at the adverse effect of the shortage and high prices thereof on the short-term prospect for bridging the food gap of the developing countries. It requested FAO to provide an up-to-date report on the IFS to the World Food Conference and urged the Conference to give priority to the consideration of ways and means of giving support to IFS to enable it to tackle the immediate problem.

46. As regards the medium and long term, the Committee noted that there was need for additional investment within the next three to four years of about \$6.5 billion on new capacity as estimated in the document. Delegates of developing countries urged that a high priority be allotted to the investment in fertilizer plants in those developing countries which had oil, gas or other natural resources as well as those which had the markets to justify efficient-sized plants. Several delegates stressed the need for an increase in production efficiency of existing fertilizer plants, particularly in the developing countries, since most of these plants were working at around 60 percent capacity. There was wide support for proposals in the document for short and long-term action. The Committee agreed that, in the long run, more fertilizer plants would have to be built, particularly in developing countries, in order to meet the increasing demand for fertilizer and that there was need to develop a world fertilizer policy. It took note in this connexion of the Sri Lanka and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific proposals for the creation of a World Fertilizer Fund for the formulation and implementation of such a world fertilizer policy. It was suggested that, under the auspices of such agencies as IBRD, UNIDO and FAO, an expert analysis of the longer-term position, including relevant recommendations, should be made urgently.

47. Emphasis was laid on development and transfer of intermediate technology and on the efficient use of fertilizers. Mass training of farmers through more efficient extension services was considered of vital importance. Emphasis was also placed on the need for developing countries to increase the use of organic manures.

48. Noting the important role of pesticides for plant protection and production conservation, a number of delegates strongly urged the acceptance of the short-term action proposal (para 165-A) to establish regional reserve stocks and to make the stocks available on the basis of need-based priority and, where necessary, on concessional terms. The Committee, however, expressed concern at the limited availability of pesticides and at the problems of storage and the safety of stocks. The Committee felt that the short-run problem of the supply of these inputs was caused by the economic difficulties of generating investments for plant expansion, and recommended that urgent attention should be given to that matter. The Committee also re-emphasized the need to avoid environmental and health hazards and stressed the need for research on the extension of non-chemical measures, including biological control and crop-breeding to improve resistance. Several delegates pointed out that there was a need for national governments to strengthen their national plant protection services including necessary advisory services and that UNIDO, UNEP and FAO should implement as soon as possible their joint

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global programme for research and training in integrated pest control. In view of current reports concerning the problem on pesticides within the longer-term period, it was suggested that, under the auspices of such agencies as IBRD, UNIDO and FAO, an expert analysis of the longer-term position, including relevant recommendations, should be made.

49. The Committee recognized the crucial importance of adequate stocks of seeds of the right improved variety for timely distribution, noting in this connexion the very considerable impact of the HYVs in bridging the food gap in several developing countries in the recent past. Only a few countries had established proper seed multiplication, storage and distribution systems and there was urgent need for more assistance to countries to establish efficient seed industries. There was general support for the proposals outlined in paragraph 180, subject to the following considerations:

- (a) the Seed Industry Development Programme of FAO should be more broadly based and further strengthened;
- (b) in order to avoid misuse of seeds as grains, the seed reserve stocks should be kept distinct from food reserve stocks; and
- (c) greater attention should be given to develop storage techniques under difficult and diverse conditions on the lines of the efforts of the FAO Working Group set up to identify such techniques.

50. The Committee stressed that it was essential for agricultural development to provide adequate technical and financial assistance to developing countries in order to promote the establishment of facilities for manpower training and the setting up of an improved extension services system in those countries.

51. The absence of specific mention of agricultural machinery as an essential input for increasing food production in developing countries was raised by several delegations, especially those from African countries. It was emphasized that mechanization, even in a plentiful labour situation, was essential to ensure timely primary cultivation and harvesting activities on an expanded acreage or where multiple cropping was practised, or to handle the produce from high yielding varieties. Reference was made to the recommendations formulated on the mechanization question during the Eighth FAO Regional Conference for Africa (August 1974) at which the importance of this matter had been stressed and requests submitted for concrete action with the object of developing a form of mechanization to suit African conditions. Delegations from other developing regions also recognized the need for similar adaptive research and training, and, wherever possible, for the local production of improved hand-tools, animal draught, tractors and implements. In this connexion, the Committee noted that the FAO Conference at its Sixteenth Session made a request to the Director-General of FAO concerning mechanization. 4/

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4/ Report of the Conference of FAO, Sixteenth Session, para 163.

52. Several delegations also drew the attention of the Committee to the need in the developing world for appropriate or "intermediate" technologies adapted to prevailing conditions. Such technologies would include the improvement of tools and implements and a degree of mechanization in agricultural production as well as an appropriate complex of processing of agricultural products into consumer items for internal as well as export markets.

53. The important role of credit was stressed by most delegations, and particular attention was given to the problem associated with providing credit for the most needy groups, especially the small farmers. Several delegates referred to the experience existing in the developed world under cooperative credit schemes for the channelling of credit and the provision of savings facilities for the small farmers. They suggested that such experience should be used in the form of technical assistance to provide training and extension services and wherever possible "seed" capital for agricultural credit schemes. The Committee supported the view that developing countries should give much greater attention to the building up of their credit institutions in order to absorb sizeable increases in external assistance.

54. Apart from the various inputs into agricultural production, the further link between producer and consumer, i.e. that of marketing, was also emphasized by the Committee. It felt that marketing was an essential part of the agricultural infrastructure and that measures for the improvement of marketing should be given due consideration with a view to ensuring a reasonable return to the farmers and reducing the costs of delivery of agricultural products to the consumers. In this respect, some delegates referred to the important role which farmers' cooperatives could play. The contribution of effective marketing to the reduction of post-harvest losses was also stressed.

55. The Committee's attention was drawn to the proposed programmes for the development (including the extension of cultivation to new areas) of land and water resources which would entail (a) the improvement of 46 million hectares of existing irrigated area, (b) the expansion by 1985 of 23 million hectares under irrigated agriculture, and (c) land development in 153 million hectares in rainfed areas. The costs of the programme amounted to \$59 billion for irrigation schemes and to \$30 billion for rainfed areas, i.e. a total of \$89 billion, with a foreign exchange component of about \$30 billion. Representatives of many developing countries strongly emphasized the importance of these programmes which in some countries should also include flood control and sound water management techniques. Several representatives also stressed the need for complementary investments on transport and communications, without the parallel development of which the benefits from land and water development could not be fully reaped. Noting that the proposals envisaged a stepping-up of the annual rate of investment from all sources to about \$8 billion per annum, with a corresponding increase in external financing from about \$700 million to a range of about \$2.5 billion by 1980, several delegates doubted whether resource transfers on this scale could be realistically envisaged or fully absorbed. It was explained that the three components of the programme were not necessarily concentrated in the same countries, and hence the magnitude of the total programme costs should not be a decisive factor as regards the absorptive capacity of individual countries. The Committee further emphasized the need

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for large scale training programmes, particularly at the medium level, as well as the need to adopt intermediate technology in the fields of land and water, as well as other training programmes in many other agricultural sectors. The Committee emphasized international river basin planning and development, the development of minor irrigation schemes, and similar aspects. Some delegations stressed the importance of taking account of ecological implications in the development of land and water resources so that short-term gains would not be offset by long-term losses.

56. Further, the Committee underlined the need for carrying out a World Survey of Water Resources and Irrigation Potential, as proposed in paragraph 200 of the document, in order to improve and update the hydrological data, both on global and national levels. It noted that such a survey would be closely correlated with the assessment of soil resources by the proposed International Land Resources Centre, and emphasized the importance of gearing the survey to concrete proposals. Referring to the proposed International Irrigation Development and Water Use Institute (paragraph 201), several delegates felt that FAO could carry out many of the Institute's functions within its present mandate.

57. The Committee recognized the important contribution that national and international research programmes could make to the increase of food production in developing countries and agreed that this was one of the priority areas for national and international action. Noting the high pay-off of outlay on research, the Committee agreed with the need for increased outlays on the international research programme, as well as for the strengthening of national research. However, the Committee felt that, to achieve the estimated annual outlay of the order of \$1.2 billion on research, considerable trained manpower and other resources would be necessary. In this connexion, it emphasized the need for adequate education and training programmes. The Committee noted that the cost-benefit analysis of research was difficult but would be discussed at a conference to be held in January 1975. It was hoped that the discussions on that occasion would assist greatly in the planning, programming and budgeting of future major research efforts, both at the national and at the international levels. The Committee noted that the machinery of the Consultative Group and its Technical Advisory Committee, as developed under the programme sponsored jointly by FAO, IBRD and UNDP, had proved flexible, effective and successful in many ways, and that many delegations felt that it deserved consideration in other areas of the action programme.

58. Some delegates emphasized the need for including in the research programme activities looking into the long term, while others emphasized the inadequate research results available on crops such as pulses, root crops, non-staples and other crops. The Committee emphasized the need for greatly enhanced efforts in basic and adaptive research on problems of tropical, arid and semi-arid agriculture, and particularly food crops. The Committee attached special importance to the information and delivery system needed for transmitting the results of research through extension and other organizations. It felt that the information and extension services needed for this purpose had not been as fully emphasized and formulated in the relevant chapters of the document as their importance would warrant.

59. The Committee stressed the contribution which prevention of post-harvest losses and waste, particularly in the handling and storage of the produce, could make towards reducing the food gap of developing countries. Many processing activities produced waste products which could be potential sources of environmental pollution if a waste management scheme was not adopted. The employment-generating opportunities presented by the agro-industries were emphasized. In this connexion, the Committee underlined the need for developing appropriate technologies to suit the resource positions of different countries. The considerable scope and need for investments in food processing activities such as sugar-refining were noted, as were the opportunities for the agro-industries companies to invest in joint ventures. The role of cooperatives in organizing these industries was also stressed.

60. Recognizing the importance of the livestock sector, the Committee emphasized that plans and programmes for the development thereof should encompass all aspects of breeding, nutrition and animal health. There was need for further strengthening the research programmes in these areas, both at international and at national levels, with a view to evolving methods and techniques suitable for tropical conditions.

61. The Committee recognized the importance of the action proposal for the control of African animal trypanosomiasis which was of interest to a large number of African countries and was expected to result in increasing the region's annual meat production by about 1.5 million tons. The Committee noted that progress in trypanosomiasis and tsetse fly control techniques now made possible the implementation of large-scale operations in regions where the livestock production potential was warranted. The Committee emphasized that trypanosomiasis and tsetse fly control should be considered as the first phase of an integrated plan of economic development, to be followed by programmes and projects covering pasture improvement, livestock management, animal health, livestock marketing, and processing and education.

62. The Committee felt that the development of fisheries deserved special attention, especially in view of the fast-growing protein needs of the population. The marine resources of the world still provided a considerable potential for increased catches without impairing conservation. Further, research and development aimed at aquaculture, the breeding of fish in freshwater, brackish water and seawater deserved special support. The Committee stressed the need to increase technical and financial assistance to the developing countries for improving processing activities, storage and distribution. The Committee also felt that greater attention should be given to the development of artisanal and small scale fisheries, the benefits of which would largely accrue to the poorer sections of the population.

63. The Committee fully supported the view that the goals and objectives of food production increases in developing countries could not be achieved only through technical solutions, but required the involvement of the people, particularly of small farmers and landless workers as well as of the organizations which represented them. To that end, the developing countries should give the utmost priority to policies and programmes designed to enable the poorer segments of the rural population to participate in the development of production and

employment, to obtain adequate access to technology, inputs, credit and marketing facilities and to improve their income and nutritional status. The Committee agreed with the integrated approach to rural development indicated in Chapter 6 of the document, in particular the emphasis placed on mobilizing rural people, securing their participation and encouraging self-reliance. It also agreed that no clear pattern of rural development could be suggested for universal adoption.

64. Some delegates pointed out that, in many developing countries, women constituted well over half of the total labour force in arable farming. However, the participation of women in agricultural production was usually given inadequate attention. It was proposed that the Conference should stress the role of women in rural development and discuss implications for education and extension.

65. The Committee stressed that agrarian reform in its widest sense should be a key element of rural development, the main objective of which should be to improve the condition of the small farmers, landless labourers and other sections of the rural poor. It also recognized that, while agricultural extension and education should be a necessary element of rural development programmes, these should not be confined to securing an increase in agricultural productivity but should encompass structural improvements, increases in employment and a better distribution of the product. The attainment of these objectives would require the strengthening of institutional and other support, especially to the weaker sections of the farming and rural community, and also, in many countries, institutional innovations. The Committee noted that many developing countries would need to strengthen their planning efforts and machinery and adopt an integrated approach to the analysis of the rural sector. The need for technical assistance in such planning, as well as in developing suitable services and facilities, was also underlined.

66. The Committee gave special attention to the proposals made in Chapter 8 on the requirements of financial resources necessary for the implementation of the different programmes for increasing food production in developing countries. Many delegates agreed that the present level of development assistance flow to agriculture (\$1.5 billion) was inadequate, and needed to be increased very substantially by 1980 to meet the proposed goals and objectives. Delegates from some of the developed countries stated that they were still examining these estimates, and would explain their position at the Conference. Some of these delegates felt that, since agriculture was an integral part of the developing process, the allocation of increased external as well as domestic resources to agriculture involved policy choices on the part of the developing countries concerned. The sectorial allocation of bilateral aid depended not only on the donors but much more on the wishes and priorities of the recipient governments. A few delegates observed that, in order to step up the transfer of external resources to the levels indicated, there would have to be a substantial increase in the absorptive capacity of the developing countries and a considerable easing of such constraints as institutional capacity and trained manpower. The delegates of many developing countries supported the proposals



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in paragraph 455, and indicated that their prospects of achieving production goals in the medium term depended very largely on receiving external assistance on a much higher scale than at present. They also emphasized their intention of mobilizing domestic resources to the utmost, in spite of the critical situation caused by inflation, shortages of inputs and balance of payments difficulties.

67. The Committee noted that the estimates of the requirements of financial resources were linked to the proposals for follow-up action, in particular the setting up of an agricultural development fund, and felt that these two issues should be considered together by the World Food Conference.

## Section II: Policy and Programmes for Improving Nutrition

68. The Committee generally agreed that Section II of the document contained valuable analysis and proposals for action to alleviate malnutrition and undernutrition. It re-affirmed the fundamental right of all to be adequately fed.

69. The Committee stressed the importance of adopting sounder and more coherent measures in the field of nutritional improvement, which should form part of integrated national food and nutrition policies and programmes. Those, in turn, should receive high priority in the national socio-economic development plans of individual countries. Although such measures were a matter of national responsibility, the international community should also provide adequate assistance.

70. The Committee emphasized that policies to increase consumption and improve nutritional levels should be closely linked to policies for production as well as to those aiming at the increase in and better distribution of incomes.

71. The Committee felt that it was necessary to make a distinction between long-term means of combating poverty and those of a shorter-term nature designed to secure prompt relief of the nutrition difficulties of the most vulnerable groups. While the former constituted the ultimate answer, the latter might well contribute an immediate solution to the plight of the hungry people in the world.

72. The Committee emphasized the importance of specific feeding programmes as a short and medium-term means of improving the nutritional status of children, mothers and other vulnerable groups. There was agreement that these programmes should be considerably strengthened, and that they should serve the needs of the right people in the vulnerable groups. These programmes should not only depend on external resources, but should try to utilize local foods as much as possible. It was recognized, however, that, for many developing countries, dependence on food aid would continue for some time for the establishment and strengthening of feeding programmes. Some delegates emphasized the need to integrate the special feeding programmes in health programmes.

73. Priority should be given to feeding children and mothers, and those programmes should be closely linked to programmes for nutritional education, since the latter were of great importance in improving nutritional levels. Particular emphasis was laid by a number of delegates on breast-feeding practices as a way of preventing malnutrition in children. Delegates stressed the role of international agencies such as WHO, UNICEF, FAO and the WFP, as well as of a great number of non-governmental voluntary organizations, and the contribution expected of them in the implementation of future and wider programmes.

74. The Committee attached considerable importance to the role of international and regional nutrition research centres and to general research in that field, which should be of a multidisciplinary nature. Research could yield satisfactory results when applied to the utilization of local resources, to the nutritional content of food crops through better breeding, to food technology, processing and marketing. It also stressed that these results should be widely disseminated.

75. A number of delegates stressed the health aspects and the close inter-relationship between these and nutritional problems. Attention was drawn to the need to reduce the impact of specific nutritional deficiencies, as indicated in Chapter II of the document. Although the costs of the necessary campaigns to that end appeared to be underestimated, those programmes deserved special attention and should be carried out as a matter of great urgency. Some delegates felt that the document had not paid sufficient attention to the health problems resulting from over-consumption of food in developed countries, and urged the need for a food and nutrition policy in these countries also which would, among other things, make more food available for the rest of the world. It was also pointed out that the present consumption pattern of developed countries should not be taken as a model.
76. A number of delegations also stressed the great importance of training qualified personnel in all fields related to nutrition, food technology, marketing, and consumer education and protection.
77. Many delegates expressed their agreement with the idea of setting specific targets for improving nutrition. Some of them, however, expressed reservations as regards the targets in the document, in view of the weakness of the basic data, and felt that that aspect merited further discussion by the World Food Conference. Nevertheless, one of the priority actions to be undertaken by governments was the improvement of their basic data on the nutritional situation and food consumption patterns, including medical and other health parameters, with a view to providing a firmer basis for targets for nutritional improvement, thereby facilitating the formulation of national food and nutrition policies and programmes and improving the orientation and utilization of international assistance.
78. The Committee took note of the statements made by the observers of WHO and UNICEF on behalf of their organizations. While stressing the gravity of the inter-related problems of health and malnutrition, and the urgent need to adopt appropriate measures at the national and international level, the observers re-affirmed the willingness of their respective organizations to participate actively, in collaboration with other interested agencies, in the formulation and implementation of programmes aiming at the solution of these problems, as recommended in Section II of the document, provided adequate funds were made available for the organization and execution of such programmes.

Section III: Action to Strengthen World Food Security

79. The Preparatory Committee examined several proposals to strengthen world food security, including those made by delegations and those contained in Section III. The Committee felt that urgent action was needed to ensure the availability at all times of adequate supplies of foodstuffs. It agreed that the proposals before it, which included the establishment of a food information and early warning system, a coordinated system of national stock policies as envisaged in the proposed international undertaking on World Food Security, better arrangements for meeting emergency food requirements and the formulation of a long-term policy on food aid, represented a useful basis for formulating a meaningful world food security policy. The Committee stressed that lasting food security rested fundamentally on increased food production, particularly in the developing countries.

80. The Committee reviewed the proposal for a food information and early warning system contained in the document under consideration and the proposal submitted by Japan for the establishment of a World Wide Information System on Food and Agriculture Situation (Annex II). It agreed that there was an urgent need for establishing a world wide food information system to strengthen the implementation of world food security and to promote market stability in a constantly changing food and agricultural situation. It felt that the main features and objectives of the two proposals were essentially similar and complementary and that it was desirable to combine them. It also noted that the nucleus of a food information system already existed in FAO and that other international organizations, such as the International Wheat Council, also collected useful information on food and agriculture. There was support for building on these existing information arrangements. The global food information system should aim at identifying countries or regions where acute food shortages were likely to arise, at monitoring the world food supply-demand situation in order to help governments to take prompt measures and at contributing to the efficient working of the proposed international undertaking on World Food Security. The Committee felt that the food information system should assemble, analyze and disseminate comprehensive and timely information on, inter alia, the situation and prospects of main crops and livestock products, export availabilities and import requirements, supplies of agricultural requisites, particularly fertilizers and weather conditions, including, as far as possible, forecasts. Many delegates stressed that full and active participation in the information system by all countries, particularly those which were major producers, consumers and/or traders, was essential for the effective functioning of the system. The Committee recognized that technical assistance would be required to build up national food information services in developing countries. Several delegates stressed that some of the information provided by governments might be sensitive and would need to be used with care and discretion so as to avoid speculative activities which would disturb the markets.

81. The Committee, in its consideration of the proposal for an international undertaking on World Food Security, welcomed the progress made in FAO in developing a common approach in this field and gave its full support to the proposal to maintain adequate reserve stocks of basic foods which could provide the world with a margin of safety against production shortfalls. The Committee stressed that it was essential for major producing and consuming countries to adhere to the proposed undertaking so that the objectives of world food security could be fully met. The Committee noted that some detailed practical and technical problems would need to be resolved if the operation of the undertaking was to be effective

and hoped that progress in this direction would be made in the appropriate inter-governmental bodies of FAO. It was recognized that, in view of the current tight supply situation, food stocks would need to be built up slowly in order to avoid disrupting the market. Commodity stocks could be successfully created only if an appropriate balance of supply and demand had been previously attained. The need for financial and technical assistance to developing countries to establish and maintain food reserves was also underlined.

82. Some delegates suggested that it would be useful if the undertaking could be strengthened by an understanding among the major cereal exporting and importing countries on a more precise and closely organized scheme of reserves with global and national targets for stocks and on the stabilization of prices at reasonable levels to both producers and consumers. They hoped that progress in that direction would be made as soon as possible through negotiations in appropriate fora.

83. The Committee reviewed the proposals on long-term policy for food aid and for arrangements to meet emergency food requirements as contained in the document before it. It agreed that the main action for the solution of the food problem in developing countries should come from increasing food production in those countries themselves, but food aid would still be necessary for several years ahead. That Committee distinguished three types of food aid - for emergency purposes, to combat hunger and malnutrition and to assist in accelerated economic development.

84. Regarding emergency food aid, the Committee emphasized the need for improvements in the existing arrangements so as to speed up the flow of aid to disaster areas. Many delegations emphasized the need for strengthening the resources and the capacity of the World Food Programme in the field of disaster and emergency operations. The Committee laid stress on the fact that, as poor transportation was one of the main obstacles, improvements in this sector were essential. The stockpiling of basic foods, either nationally or within a regional framework, would also speed up emergency operations. As regards the proposal for setting up an international food reserve for emergencies, the Committee felt that further examination of this proposal was necessary, particularly of management, location, release, financing or institutional aspects, with particular reference to an extended role for the World Food Programme.

85. As regards the longer-term aspects of Food aid policy the Committee, while recognizing that food aid should not be regarded as being of a permanent nature, agreed that forward planning and stabilization of food aid commitments were necessary, within the limits of national budget regulations, in order to impart a reasonable degree of continuity in food aid programmes. Several delegations expressed a willingness to make longer-term commitments of food aid and to enter into these commitments to a larger extent in quantitative and physical terms. The Committee stressed the desirability of the equitable sharing of the cost of food aid amongst all donors, both traditional and potential. It expressed support for increasing the grant component of food aid and for expanding the multilateral part of such aid, particularly through the World Food Programme. It agreed that the elimination of hunger and malnutrition should be a major objective of a longer-term food aid policy, although further work would be needed on defining the scope and costs of implementing such a policy. The Committee agreed that the role of food aid in economic development should be seen in the perspective of the overall aid programmes and development strategies. It was recognized that, in certain circumstances, food aid might be the form of assistance preferred. The Committee stressed the desirability of avoiding the disincentive effects of food aid on food production in the recipient countries, on normal commercial trade and on the production and trade of food-exporting developing countries. In this connection, it reaffirmed the importance of the adherence to the FAO Principles of Surplus Disposal.

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Section IV: Trade, Stability and Adjustment

86. The Committee recognized that, as outlined in Section IV of the document under consideration, trade formed an integral part of the world food problem and it agreed that relevant questions should be identified and considered by the Conference in so far as they were linked with the solution of this problem. It was agreed that the governments should take into account the outcome of the deliberations of the Conference in this field when dealing with trade questions in the appropriate fora, such as GATT and UNCTAD.

87. Most delegates agreed that, if trade were to fulfil its role, it should have a free and orderly flow at stable prices and provide an assured outlet to exporters and security of supply to importers, at reasonable prices to both. Measures to stabilize food prices at reasonable levels for both producers and consumers on the world market were therefore imperative. It was also vital to remove obstacles to the access to markets for food as well as for other products exported by developing countries. As part of these liberalization measures, developing food-exporting countries should be enabled to acquire an adequate share of the food market. In addition, steps should be taken to promote adjustment by individual countries with a view to facilitating the rapid adaptation of the production structure to the changes in the market.

88. The representative of UNCTAD drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that the Provisional Agenda of the Conference as recommended by the Committee and approved by the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-seventh session 5/ defined the scope of Conference agenda item 9 (d) as follows: "specific objectives and measures in the area of international trade and adjustment, which are relevant to the food problem, including measures towards stabilization and expansion of markets for exports from developing countries".

89. Many delegates considered that it was essential to formulate guidelines for the work in other fora in connexion with international measures for the removal of trade barriers, for trade expansion and diversification, price stability and for structural adjustment. The proposals for action suggested at the end of each chapter in Section IV (paragraphs 610, 636 and 645) of the document under discussion could be used as a basis for these guidelines. However, some delegates felt that the guidelines should be more specific and more explicitly directed to particular bodies concerned than was the case in the proposals in that document.

90. In view of the close interrelation between stocks and prices, the Committee recognized the need to link arrangements for World Food Security with measures for food stabilization, as well as any future arrangement for international agricultural adjustment.

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Section V: Arrangements for follow-up action

91. The Committee examined at length Section V of document E/CONF.65/PREP/13 (E/CONF.65/4) "Arrangements for follow-up action", as well as other proposals for institutional arrangements and follow-up action which were before the Committee. During this debate, various views of delegations on these subjects were stated. After the general debate, the further consideration of Section V was entrusted to an informal Working Group which was set up at the 28th meeting of the Committee on Thursday, 26 September. The terms of reference of the Working Group were to:

- (a) Examine how the conclusions of the Conference can best be presented to the world;
- (b) Examine how follow-up action to the decisions of the Conference should be dealt with;
- (c) Discuss what should be the general contents of a declaration and programme of action in case this should be decided upon.

92. Sierra Leone was designated as Chairman of the informal Working Group. The other members were: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zambia.

93. The Working Group was to carry out its mandate in the light of views expressed by delegates during the debate in plenary on Section V and report accordingly.

94. At the 38th meeting, the Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. S.A. Jabati (Sierra Leone) presented the report of the Working Group. The report was as follows:

(1) The Working Group agreed that the best way to present the conclusions of the Conference to the world would be to have (a) a declaration designed to inform public opinion containing the reasons for convening the World Food Conference, the policy implications flowing from the current and prospective assessment of the world food situation and formulation of the major points of decision adopted by the Conference for resolving the world food problem, (b) a set of specific resolutions on priority proposals for action on which clear-cut understandings and commitments could be reached, (c) a report of the Conference incorporating a series of recommendations of a more technical or general nature addressed to national governments, to international organizations and other appropriate fora.

(2) In its discussion of the scope of the declaration, several suggestions were made: (i) The declaration should recall the findings of the assessments of the current food crisis and the prospect that shortages and high prices of food could become a world-wide catastrophe and affirm strongly the basic human rights on food; (ii) The declaration should also recognize the objective of a world food policy including increasing food production, improving consumption and ensuring adequate food security and stress that these were all aspects of an

integrated whole; (iii) It should proclaim the determination of governments to work together to raise food production in developing countries laying stress on the provision of necessary inputs, to establish a system of World Food Security, to improve the distribution of food and combat the scourge of hunger and malnutrition, and to facilitate the expansion of trade of developing countries.

(3) The Working Group suggested that the draft Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger, submitted by Peru, together with the comments of other delegations, should be used by the Secretariat for preparing a draft declaration for consideration at the Conference. A draft declaration prepared by the Secretariat is attached to this report.

(4) The Working Group also agreed that the Report of the Meeting of interested delegations constituted a very useful step in achieving a broad consensus on certain objectives and principles and that a summary of the report of this meeting as presented by its Chairman will be incorporated in the report of the Committee.

(5) The Working Group agreed that the areas for priority action for which specific resolutions would be appropriate were well covered by the suggested list of key points made by the Secretary-General in his statement at the 33rd meeting of the Preparatory Committee on 30 September 1974. There was broad agreement that these suggested points offered a good basis for the resolutions, and the Working Group had a general discussion on the draft resolutions prepared by the Secretariat (attached to this report) on each of the ten points identified by the Secretary-General and taking into account the comments made by various delegations.

(6) In its discussions of item (b) of its terms of reference, the Working Group agreed to suggest certain basic principles: (i) follow-up action to the decisions of the Conference should be effective; (ii) maximum efforts should be made to strengthen and reinforce existing institutions in this area, but at the same time governments should keep an open mind on the establishment of new international machinery if there was strong justification for such machinery; (iii) high priority should be given to actions designed to increase the flow of resources for increasing food production in developing countries; (iv) the need for integrated approach in tackling various aspects of the world food problem.

(7) In the light of these principles, the Group examined various concrete proposals submitted to the Preparatory Committee, including:

- (a) World Fertilizer Fund, proposed by Sri Lanka and ESCAP (E/CONF.65/4, paras 668-671)
- (b) World Bank of Food, Agricultural Inputs Supply and Research, proposed by Mexico (Annex I)
- (c) Agricultural Development Fund, proposed by Sierra Leone on behalf of the African Group (E/CONF.65/4, para 674)
- (d) World Food Security Council, World Food Bank and International Agricultural Development Fund or Bank, proposed by Bangladesh (E/CONF.65/4, paras 675-677)

- (e) Establishment of a World Wide Information System on Food and Agriculture Situation, proposed by Japan (Annex II).
  - (f) Other proposals mentioned by delegates of Federal Republic of Germany, Philippines, India and the Netherlands (Annexes III to VI).
  - (g) Secretariat proposals in Chapter 20 of the "Action" document.
  - (8) After a general discussion of the basic elements of these proposals, the Group reached a broad measure of understanding on the following common aspects of the follow-up action:
    - (a) The establishment of a comprehensive and world wide system of food information and early-warning to give timely and reliable information on the food situation.
    - (b) The creation of effective international arrangements on World Food Security at the earliest possible time.
    - (c) More effective international coordination of food aid policies and programmes.
    - (d) The creation of improved arrangements for the planning and coordination of existing and new flows of technical and financial resources to developing countries, possibly through a consultative group such as on agricultural investment, and on possible ways of providing links with private foreign investment.
    - (e) More effective follow-up action for implementing proposals concerning agricultural research and nutrition programmes.
    - (f) Need for an overall and high-level mechanism to provide integrated and continuing attention for the successful direction, coordination and implementation of policies and programmes concerning food production, nutrition and food security recommended by the World Food Conference.
  - (9) The Group strongly emphasized the urgent need to increase the flow of resources devoted to the improvement and expansion of food production in developing countries, and for this purpose, the World Food Conference should agree on financial arrangements, which might include a food and agricultural development fund or bank, that would lead to a significant increase in resources available through international channels. The Group felt that it would be useful for interested governments to hold consultations before or during the World Food Conference to discuss these matters.
95. At the 40th meeting on 4 October 1974, the Committee adopted the report of the Working Group.
96. The Preparatory Committee reached a broad measure of understanding that the declaration (para. 94(1) above) should be a declaration of principles and objectives.
97. The Group of 77 gave support to the statement made by the President of Venezuela, Mr. Carlos Andres Pérez, in response to the statement made by the President of the United States of America, Mr. Gerald Ford, to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its twenty-ninth session.

## VI. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Duration of the session

98. The Preparatory Committee for the World Food Conference, established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1831 (LV) of 11 December 1973, held its third session at the headquarters of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations at Rome from 23 September to 4 October 1974. The Committee held 19 plenary meetings (22nd to 40th meetings).

Membership and attendance

99. By Economic and Social Council resolution 1831 (LV), the Preparatory Committee was open to all States Members of the United Nations. The following 80 States Members attended the third session of the Committee:

Algeria	Guinea	Saudi Arabia
Argentina	Hungary	Senegal
Australia	India	Sierra Leone
Austria	Indonesia	Spain
Bangladesh	Iran	Sri Lanka
Belgium	Iraq	Sudan
Brazil	Ireland	Sweden
Bulgaria	Israel	Syrian Arab Republic
Canada	Italy	Thailand
Chile	Jamaica	Trinidad and Tobago
China	Japan	Turkey
Colombia	Jordan	Union of Soviet Socialist
Congo	Kenya	Republics
Costa Rica	Madagascar	United Kingdom of Great
Cuba	Malta	Britain and Northern Ireland
Czechoslovakia	Mexico	United Republic of Cameroun
Denmark	Netherlands	United Republic of Tanzania
Ecuador	New Zealand	United States of America
Egypt	Nicaragua	Uruguay
El Salvador	Nigeria	Venezuela
Ethiopia	Norway	Yemen
Finland	Oman	Yugoslavia
France	Pakistan	Zaire
Gabon	Panama	Zambia
German Democratic	Paraguay	
Republic	Peru	
Germany, Federal	Philippines	
Republic of	Poland	
Ghana	Portugal	
Guatemala	Romania	

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100. The third session was also attended by the following:

States non-members of the United Nations represented by observers:

Holy See  
Republic of Korea  
Republic of Vietnam  
Switzerland

Specialized agencies and GATT, organs and other bodies in the United Nations systems:

International Labour Organization  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
World Health Organization  
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
World Meteorological Organization  
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development  
United Nations Environment Programme  
United Nations Children's Fund  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research  
World Food Programme  
United Nations Disaster Relief Office

Intergovernmental organizations:

Council of Arab Economic Unity  
European Economic Community  
Organization of American States  
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Non-Governmental organizations:

Associated Country Women of the World  
Church World Service  
International Alliance of Women  
International Confederation of Catholic Charities  
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions  
International Council of Catholic Men  
International Council of Voluntary Agencies  
International Council of Women  
International Federation of Agricultural Producers  
International Planned Parenthood Federation  
League of Red Cross Societies  
Pax Romana  
Population Crisis Committee  
United Kingdom Standing Conference on the Second United Nations Development Decade  
World Confederation of Labour  
World Council of Churches  
World Federation of Trade Unions  
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

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### Rules of procedure

101. In accordance with its decision at its 1st meeting on 11 February 1974, the proceedings of the Preparatory Committee were governed, mutatis mutandis, by the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

### Officers

102. The following officers served at the third session of the Preparatory Committee:

Chairman:	Olof Rydbeck	(Sweden)
Vice-Chairmen:	E. Raszeja-Tobjasz	(Poland)
	S. Fonseca-Martinez	(Colombia)
	Brajesh C. Mishra	(India)

103. In replacement of Mr. Ojeaga Ojehomon (Nigeria) who had to leave Rome on an assignment during the session, Mr. L.M. Mumeka (Zambia) was elected at the 26th meeting on 25 September 1974, as Rapporteur of the Committee.

### Agenda

104. At its 22nd meeting, on 23 September 1974, the Committee considered its provisional agenda (E/CONF.65/PREP/11). The agenda, as adopted (E/CONF.65.PREP/14), is as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Progress report by the Secretary-General of the Conference
3. Assessment of the world food situation, present and future
4. Report on the Meeting of interested delegations on specific proposals for possible consideration by the World Food Conference
5. The world food problem: proposals for national and international action
6. Adoption of the report on the third session of the Preparatory Committee to the Economic and Social Council.

105. At its 36th to 40th meetings from 2 to 4 October 1974, the Preparatory Committee adopted the present report on its third session (E/CONF.65/PREP/L.9) and Add.1, 2 and Add. 2/Corr.1, Add.3-7 as amended), to the Economic and Social Council and the World Food Conference.



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Documentation

106. The Preparatory Committee had before it the following documents:

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CONF.65/PREP/11	Provisional agenda of the session
E/CONF.65/PREP/12	Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the report entitled "Assessment of the world food situation, present and future" (E/CONF.65/3)
E/CONF.65/PREP/13	Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the report entitled "The world food problem: proposals for national and international action" (E/CONF.65/4)
E/CONF.65/PREP/14	Agenda
E/CONF.65/PREP/L.2 and Add.1	The establishment of a World Fertilizer Fund: proposal by Sri Lanka
E/CONF.65/PREP/L.3 and E/CONF.65/PREP.III/CRP.6	Establishment of a World Bank of Food, Agricultural Inputs Supply and Research: proposal by Mexico
E/CONF.65/PREP/L.5/Add.1 and Corr. 1 and E/CONF.65/PREP.III/CRP.4	Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger: draft submitted by Peru
E/CONF.65/PREP/III/CRP.3	The establishment of a World Wide Information System on Food and Agriculture Situation: proposal by Japan
E/CONF.65/PREP/L.7	Report on the meeting of interested delegations on specific proposals for possible consideration by the World Food Conference
E/CONF.65/PREP/L.8	Report on the meeting of interested delegations on specific proposals for possible consideration by the World Food Conference: setting up of Informal Working Group
E/CONF.65/PREP/L.9 and Add. 1, 2 and Add. 2/Corr. 1 and Add. 3-7	Draft report of the Committee
E/CONF.65/PREP/L.10	Statement made by the Secretary-General of the Conference at the 33rd meeting of the Preparatory Committee on 30 September 1974 on the world food problem: proposals for national and international action

E/CONF.65/PREP/NGO.2

Statement submitted by the United Kingdom Standing Conference on the Second United Nations Development Decade on the world food problem: proposals for national and international action

107. Some delegates observed that the Secretariat was not able to ensure the simultaneous distribution of the documents in all the working languages.

ANNEXES

1. In accordance with the decision of the Committee (paras 94(5) and 95 above), the specific proposals transmitted to the World Food Conference are annexed hereunder.
2. Certain of those proposals are contained in the document entitled "The world food problem: proposals for national and international action" (E/CONF.65/4). These are:
  - (a) World Fertilizer Fund, proposed by Sri Lanka and ESCAP (paras 668-671)
  - (b) Agricultural Development Fund, proposed by Sierra Leone on behalf of the African Group (para 673)
  - (c) World Food Security Council, World Food Bank and International Agricultural Development Fund or Bank, proposed by Bangladesh (paras 675-677)
  - (d) Secretariat proposals on World Food Authority (Annex B to Chapter 20)
3. The other proposals are:
  - (a) World Bank of Food, Agricultural Inputs Supply and Research, proposed by Mexico (Annex I)
  - (b) Establishment of a World Wide Information System on Food and Agriculture Situation, proposed by Japan (Annex II)
  - (c) High Level Coordinating Committee for Agricultural Development, proposed by the Federal Republic of Germany (Annex III)
  - (d) Agricultural Development Fund, proposed by the Philippines (Annex IV)
  - (e) World Agricultural Development Service, proposed by India (Annex V)
  - (f) Institutional Arrangements for Consultation and Coordination, proposed by the Netherlands (Annex VI)
  - (g) Draft resolutions prepared by the Secretariat in compliance with the request made in the Preparatory Committee at its third session (Annex VII)
  - (h) Draft resolution submitted by Yugoslavia on "International food trade, access to markets, prices and stabilization" to replace draft resolutions IX and X prepared by the Secretariat (Annex VIII)

- (i) Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger, a draft submitted by Peru (Annex IX)
- (j) Draft declaration prepared by the Secretariat in compliance with the request made in the Preparatory Committee at its third session (Annex X)

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ANNEX I

Proposal by Mexico

ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORLD BANK OF FOOD,  
AGRICULTURAL INPUTS SUPPLY AND RESEARCH

The World Food Conference,

CONSIDERING

the purposes of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which are to raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples of its Member Nations, to secure improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, to better the condition of rural populations, and thus, to contribute toward an expanding world economy and ensure humanity's freedom from hunger,

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms, among other principles, the right of every individual to an adequate level of living that will assure his health, welfare, food supply, apparel, housing, medical care and the requisite social services,

that food supplies have generally not been sufficient to cover requirements in the world at large and that, therefore, in many countries of different parts of the world millions of human beings go hungry and live in conditions inconsistent with human dignity, while other countries squander resources and their populations are at times supplied to superfluity,

that the lack of food has been rendered more acute by the monetary and energy crises and the world inflation, which in recent years have quite unsettled the international price system,

that the rigidity and sluggishness of agriculture in much of the Third World are traceable to structural and institutional factors that impede development and the proper utilization of resources,

that the world's requirements in food and fibres are steadily increasing with the population, that this is generating heightening tensions within and among countries, and that, in consequence of the behaviour of the two variables of food production and population, the prospect for the future is not only uncertain, but menacing as well,

that it is urgently necessary to approve a Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of Nations as a first step toward the codification and development of rules for the conduct of international economic relations on a basis of equity and justice,

that these problems can only be solved through genuine and effective international solidarity,

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PROPOSES:

First, that there be established a World Bank of Food, Agricultural Inputs Supply and Research and that it be endowed with resources in cash and kind provided by contributing countries through mechanisms to be provided for the purpose;

Second, that the primary, though not the only, purpose of the Bank be to build up a reserve of staple foods sufficient to allay the deprivation now afflicting several countries in the world and to provide stocks adequate to forestall future crises and disequilibria;

Third, that the functions of the World Bank of Food, Agricultural Inputs Supply and Research be supervised and regulated by a Permanent Intergovernmental Council whose members are to be elected in equal numbers by the United Nations General Assembly and the FAO Conference. Similarly, that the Bank be administered directly by a board of directors answerable to the Council and whose members are designated in equal numbers by the contributing and beneficiary countries;

Fourth, that the Bank, in the exercise of its functions, take due account of the particular characteristics of the different regions and countries;

Fifth, that its structure be given the flexibility required to streamline the decision-making process through regionalized administrative decentralization;

Sixth, that the criteria for the allocation of resources in cash and kind be established by the Permanent Intergovernmental Council;

Seventh, that the Bank also foster agricultural production by supporting and financing on favourable conditions agricultural development projects designed to increase and improve the availability of food;

Eighth, that it also supply the developing countries with scarce agricultural inputs, chiefly fertilizers, improved seed, cattle semen, fodders, balanced feeds, mechanical equipment, etc.;

Ninth, that it concurrently operate in the area of technological and scientific research in pursuit of such purposes as its governing bodies may establish;

Tenth, that the financial assistance provided by the Bank be subject to rules more flexible and favourable than those conventionally applied in existing international financing agencies;

Eleventh, that it take appropriate measures to bring about the gradual internationalization of the structure of agriculture, of the production and distribution of agricultural inputs, of the promotion and dissemination of agricultural technical research and of support to the aims of economic, social and cultural betterment that must be regarded as the common heritage of all peoples.

## ANNEX II

### Proposal by Japan

#### THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORLD WIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

##### 1. Background

The tightness of the world food supply-demand situation which the world has experienced since 1972 has given rise to serious food problems such as sharp price increases, depletion of stocks and serious shortages of supplies in a number of countries. One reason for this is that, while there has been an increasingly strong demand for food owing to the growth of population and per capita income, food production fell in various parts of the world, mainly because of unfavourable weather conditions.

It should be pointed out, however, that there is another reason for the food crisis. The lack of adequate and timely information aggravated the world food situation. It was difficult for governments to take prompt and appropriate measures to cope with the changing situation of world food production when there was a significant shortfall in the global information system.

Needless to say, the economic interdependence among nations has become closer than ever before. Food is no exception to this proposition. It should be pointed out that, had there been an adequate global information system on the world food situation, it would have been possible to avoid, or at least to attenuate the grave situation which the world has recently experienced. In view of the uncertain prospects as regards food supplies, there is an urgent need for a more comprehensive and global information system.

It is noted that one important function of FAO, IWC and other international organizations is the collection and analysis of world-wide information on food and agriculture. These existing information functions should be further improved and strengthened for the reasons set out above. The proposed information system is designed to enhance the usefulness of the information collected by the various existing institutions (FAO, IWC, WHO, etc.) through coordinating their information activities and thus making information available to this system and enabling it to compile such information in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

##### 2. Objectives

This information system aims at (a) identifying countries or regions where acute food shortages are thought to be imminent; (b) monitoring world food supply-demand conditions so as to enable governments to take timely and appropriate measures. The system would, in addition to meeting these objectives, contribute to the effective functioning of the proposed "Undertaking on World Food Security".



### 3. Contents of the Information

The information to be covered under the proposed system should include the following points with regard to wheat, major coarse grains, rice, soy-beans and major livestock products.

- (a) the current situation, including the immediate future of production and consumption, imports and exports and stocks of the items mentioned above;
- (b) the short-term prospects for the following season as regards the world import requirements and export availabilities of these items;
- (c) various elements which will affect the supply and demand situation of these items, such as the current weather conditions and forecasts, the availability of agricultural inputs including fertilizers and pesticides, fluctuations in the prices of these items, food aid, and government policy changes in production, stock holding and trade.

### 4. Ways and means of collecting and disseminating information

All available information should be collected, including reports from governments adhering to this System, reports from the field offices of UN agencies concerned such as FAO, UNDP and WFP, and various news and other reports. In this connection, governments adhering to the System are requested to submit information at the earliest possible time.

The Secretariat should analyse the information thus collected, and, after digesting it, disseminate it to governments in the form of a quarterly (or if necessary monthly) bulletin, which will give a comprehensive picture of the world food situation and future prospects in line with the objectives described above. Governments could submit any comment on country data concerned, of which the Secretariat should take note in preparing subsequent reports.

The information could be disseminated to members of the System on a confidential basis for a certain period when the government which submits the information concerned so requests.

### 5. Governments adhering to the System

Governments adhering to the System will be the member governments of UN, FAO and IWC. Interested governments who wish to adhere to the System should notify their intentions to the Secretariat. (See 6 below).

### 6. The Secretariat

A Unit or division in charge of this System should be established within the FAO Secretariat. This Unit should establish close working relationships with the secretariats of other international and national organizations which are engaged in collecting and analysing data on these matters.

Note: This proposal should be taken not as an alternative to the one proposed in WFC Secretariat paper (Ch. 13 of E/CONF.65/4) but as complementing that proposal in the sense that the Japanese suggestion envisaged more comprehensive and concrete global information System.

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ANNEX III

Proposal by the Federal Republic of Germany

HIGH LEVEL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany proposes the setting up of a High Level Coordinating Committee composed of the heads of the multilateral institutions dealing directly with the "three pillars" of the Secretary-General's programme. These institutions are the World Bank, UNDP and FAO. It is also essential to involve representatives of the donors of bilateral aid. We propose to appoint a very limited number (about three representatives) of the donor countries as members of this Committee. These members naturally would not be in a position to assume obligations for the donor countries but they could inform the Committee of the views of the donors and assure a flow of information on multilateral strategy for the bilateral donor countries, enabling them to take account of that strategy. Lastly, three representatives of the developing countries should also be included, observing a reasonable regional distribution. The total number of members should be kept down to 10 to 12 in order to ensure action and success. The Committee should meet two or three times a year, as necessary, at FAO Headquarters. FAO is best qualified for this task by the constitution given to it in 1945 by the community of nations. The relevant part of the preamble reads as follows:

"raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples under their respective jurisdictions;

securing improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products;

bettering the condition of rural populations;

and thus contributing toward an expanding world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger;"

FAO would act as the Secretariat of the Coordinating Committee. However, the heads of the multilateral agencies, as members of the Coordinating Committee, would not be authorized to decide on the exclusive basis of their own judgment. They would continue to perform their activities in the framework established by the constitution of their respective institutions. They would also be obliged to act in conformity with their respective governing bodies. If possibilities for improvement are identified within this framework, these improvements should be adequately considered. Consideration might be given to the creation of a consultative body to assist the Coordinating Committee. This consultative body should not be a very large one, and might be composed of some ten personalities, e.g. experts from developed as well as developing countries.

ANNEX IV

Proposal by the Philippines

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

An Agricultural Development Fund shall be created in FAO as another department. It shall be headed by an Executive Director elected by the FAO Council in an extraordinary session for six years.

The sessions of the FAO Council shall be classified into two: (1) ordinary sessions and (2) extraordinary sessions. The regular frequency of ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the Council shall be fixed. However, whenever necessity arises, the FAO Council may sit in special ordinary session or in special extraordinary session. When meeting in ordinary session, whether regular or special, the FAO Council, as presently composed, shall take up matters within the Council's present competence. When meeting, however, in extraordinary session the Council shall be joined by representatives of substantial donor countries to the Agricultural Development Fund.

The votes in the FAO Council shall be divided as follows: 50 percent of the votes shall be allotted to the present membership of the FAO Council. The remaining 50 percent of the votes shall be distributed among the representatives of substantial donor countries on the basis of, for instance, one vote per \$5 million contribution to the Agricultural Development Fund. An absolute majority of the total votes in the FAO Council when meeting in extraordinary session shall be required for decisions.

Representatives of governments attending extraordinary sessions of the Council shall be required to bring full powers for credentials.

The FAO Constitution, general rules and the rules of procedure, shall be amended accordingly.

The World Bank, UNDP, the Wheat Council and other international organizations involved in foreign aid work shall be invited to Council sessions in order to present views, suggestions, advice, proposals, etc.

The sessions of the FAO Council when meeting in extraordinary session shall be limited to matters relating to functions and activities of the Agricultural Development Fund. On all other matters, the FAO Council may meet in ordinary session.

The FAO shall provide office space for the Agricultural Development Fund for which it (the Fund) must pay proportionate costs. The Executive Director shall have the rank, pay, allowances and fringe benefits of a Deputy Director-General of FAO. The personnel of the Agricultural Development Fund shall be appointed by the Executive Director in accordance with such guidelines as may be set forth by FAO Council sitting in extraordinary session. However, appointments of senior officials of the Agricultural Development Fund, from the rank of Director upwards, shall require confirmation by the FAO Council meeting in extraordinary session.

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**page 2**

As to the Food Security Committee proposed by the Secretariat in the "Action" document, it shall be made a Standing Committee of the FAO Council. It shall be composed of 24 members elected for two years by the FAO Council meeting in ordinary session. The membership shall be distributed according to regional representation. The reports of the Food Security Committee shall be submitted to the FAO Council like those of other standing committees of the Council.

Salaries, allowances, fringe benefits of the personnel of the Agricultural Development Fund, as well as all administrative and operational expenses of the Fund, shall be borne by the said Fund, so that these expenses will not be a burden to the regular budget of FAO.

ANNEX V

Proposal by India

WORLD AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

A structure should be devised which would make full use of the available organizations and avoid creating new ones. That structure should also be technically competent to handle the complex problems of agricultural production in different regions and should be capable of speedy despatch of business. It should create a platform in which the interests of the donor countries and the interests of the receiving countries would be imaginatively reconciled to their mutual satisfaction.

In order to stress agricultural production, the term World Food Authority would itself be changed to World Agricultural Development Service (WADS). The governing body for this service could be a Board of Trustees with a whole-time independent Chairman and comprising the following members:

1. Secretary-General of UN or his nominee
2. Director-General, FAO
3. President, IBRD
4. Administrator, UNDP
5. Director-General, UNICEF
6. Director-General, WHO
7. Director-General, WMO
8. Executive Director, UNIDO
9. Regional Representatives of FAO
10. Eight world leaders of agriculture and rural development to be nominated by the Secretary-General of the UN
11. Chairman of the five Consultative Groups and four Technical Advisory Committees

It would have five resources divisions - one each for Food, Fertilizer, Energy, Equipment and Cash; and four services divisions - one each for (a) food aid, (b) agricultural research, (c) agricultural inputs, and (d) agricultural development strategy and early warning system. Each of the resources groups would have a Consultative Group (CG) comprising representatives of all donor countries and a few of the recipient nations. Each of the service divisions would have a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprising eminent independent experts in the field.

The Board of Trustees would derive their political authority from the UN General Assembly. The Secretariat for the Board of Trustees would be provided by the United Nations. The Secretariat service for the resources and the services divisions would be provided by the Secretariats of existing UN organizations. Thus, the new arrangement would make effective use of the existing organizations in achieving the proposed objectives. The above arrangement basically draws inspiration from the successful working of the system of Consultative Groups and Technical Advisory Committees for global agricultural research. It has been found that a Technical Advisory Committee has never been ignored, and the confidence of the donors in such a Committee has resulted in increased availability of funds for international agricultural research. The CG-TAC system in this area would appear to have worked with technical competence, effectiveness and speed.

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ANNEX VI

Proposal by the Netherlands

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

We would like to look at FAO's intergovernmental machinery and see to what extent this is not sufficiently equipped for member governments to analyze, discuss, review, and make the proper recommendations, regarding the necessary action which should be undertaken.

The Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies should develop quickly in a body with a central function, advising the Council as well as its sister committees. It should regularly analyze the world food and nutrition situation and make appropriate recommendations to the Council.

The terms of reference of the present CCP should be extended to include the review of the implementation of the World Food Security Undertaking. The present CCP could then be called Committee on Food Security and Trade Policies. The establishment and management of a Food Reserve System should be discussed and negotiated by countries directly involved, but it should continuously be reviewed by the reconstituted CCP. The World Food Security System should dispose of the quantities of grain necessary for stabilization purposes and emergencies.

Food Aid should quickly be enlarged. More regular information as to total food aid requirements and availability through bilateral and multilateral action is needed, and regular practical recommendations based on factual data should be made. This task could be entrusted to the Intergovernmental Committee of the WFP, which is already partly involved in these matters.

Emergency actions could be reviewed by this body, although the availability of supplies for emergency situations may be a part of the World Food Security Undertaking.

These intergovernmental reviews on Food Aid and emergencies would be reported to ECOSOC and the FAO Council, but should also be submitted to the reconstituted CCP, especially because of the relationship between food aid and normal commercial trade.

There has not been sufficient information or guidance in general of agricultural development policies, priorities and especially investments. FAO's intergovernmental machinery should be in the forefront and be abreast of developments, and for this reason the Council should set up a Committee on Development.

The Committees will report to the Council, and the Council should have sufficient time and opportunity to discuss these recommendations, which should become Council recommendations or policies. The Council should be concerned not only with present-day problems, but also with impending problems. The Council should thus meet at least twice a year, and in addition be convened at short notice if necessary, and should leave discussions on housekeeping and procedural matters to lower bodies or to alternates. Countries should, at least for a few days each year, be represented at ministerial level.

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Only in those conditions can FAO take a stand on the world problems of agricultural production and food as demanded by its constitution.

More financial resources for agricultural development are needed and the Netherlands Government has taken action accordingly.

When we consider an institutional mechanism for channelling resources for agricultural development, we should give special attention to systems which stimulate lasting interest in financial participation in these schemes.

A pattern somewhat similar to the Consultative Group, Technical Advisory Committee for Agricultural Research, could be considered for other agricultural development sectors as well. This system will present possibilities to new donors to participate in the programmes.

These systems make it possible for interested countries to follow, and, as it were, take part in the formulation of the programmes, and thus give them a feeling of co-responsibility.

This system could be introduced for other sectors, for instance, training and extension, agricultural credits, and certain inputs. These matters would have to be carefully studied, especially the institutional pattern and the exercise of control and evaluation.

We could imagine such a pattern for the medium and long term fertilizer supply problem, and the pesticides and herbicides problems, through cooperation between FAO, UNIDO, the World Bank, and donor countries, supported by a committee of technical experts. This proposal could cover, or partly cover, the ESCAP and the Mexican proposals.

The same remarks apply to the Secretary-General's and Japan's recommendations on an early warning and information system.

A Consultative Board on Agricultural Investment, which would coordinate the activities of the different sectors, would be necessary. This body would be more or less in line with the proposal of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding the necessary coordination for agencies and countries. It would also be along the lines of the Indian proposal, although constituting a much simplified version of this proposal.

As regards the proposed World Food Authority, there should be a system for consultation and coordination. There should be an exchange of thoughts and hopefully a consensus between the main bodies concerned with food and agricultural development problems. These main bodies are the FAO Conference, the FAO Council, the ECOSOC and other UN bodies as well as the Consultative Board on Agricultural Investment and the ACC. These bodies together would establish a system of permanent consultation among themselves which partly exists. Together they could form the World Food Group, which should inform and influence multilateral and national institutions and world public opinion.



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ANNEX VII

Draft Resolutions prepared by the Secretariat in compliance with the request made in the Preparatory Committee at its third session

Draft Resolution I

OBJECTIVES FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

The World Food Conference,

Recognizing that, if past trends in food production and productivity in the developing countries were to continue, the expected increase in the demand for food in these countries will raise their import requirements to unmanageable proportions,

Affirming therefore that the highest priority should be given to policies and programmes for increasing food production in the developing countries, placing special emphasis on ensuring sufficient incentives to farmers and on providing adequate supplies of essential inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, quality seeds and water,

Noting that a sustained expansion of food production in these countries at a rate much faster than in the past is essential in order to meet the rapidly growing demand for food, the requirements for security stocks to achieve a better balance between the growth of population and of food supplies, and to improve the consumption of under-nourished people,

Stressing the urgent need for greater efforts by the developing countries themselves and for increased international cooperation for agricultural development in these countries, as part of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and of the Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

Expressing concern at the inadequate performance of agriculture in many developing countries in relation to the targets of the Second United Nations Development Decade and their own national objectives, and at the inadequacy of the present level of development assistance flowing to agriculture in these countries,

1. Urges all governments to accept the removal of the scourge of hunger and malnutrition, which at present afflicts many millions of human beings, as the common responsibility of the international community as a whole;

2. Calls on the government of each developing country to accord the appropriate priority to agriculture, to formulate food production objectives for the short, medium and long term, taking into account its demographic and general development goals, and to establish the essential framework of objectives, targets, policies and institutions for agricultural development required to make its own efforts and external assistance fully effective;

3. Calls on the governments of developed countries and of all others able to furnish external assistance to substantially increase their official development assistance to agriculture in developing countries, including capital assistance on soft terms, technical assistance, transfer of technology and programme loans for imports of fertilizers and other essential inputs;

4. Requests the World Bank, Regional Banks, UNDP, FAO and other international agencies to increase their assistance for agriculture in developing countries, and to mobilize the support of the entire international community, including non-governmental organisations, for the urgent task of overcoming hunger and malnutrition.

### Draft Resolution II

#### PRIORITIES FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

##### The World Food Conference,

Recognizing the urgent need for expanding the productivity base of agriculture through fuller and more intensive utilisation of land and water resources, through appropriate institutional and social changes in the organisation of rural communities; and through the strengthening of manpower training and extension services for farmers,

Recognizing the vital importance of mobilizing human resources for rural development and particularly of involving small farmers and landless labourers in rural areas in increasing agricultural production and in providing adequate food for the under-nourished,

Affirming that a critical element in rural development and in reducing rural unemployment, is the capacity of the rural community to intensify, diversify and expand its activities in farming, animal husbandry, forestry, fisheries and allied agro-industries,

Noting that no unique pattern of social, economic or institutional set up can be applicable to all countries,

1. Stresses the paramount need for far-reaching socio-economic reform and institutional improvement in rural areas to organize and activate the rural population for integrated rural development and the important role that can be played by agrarian reform and cooperative organizations in agricultural development and in generating greater self-reliance;
2. Calls on each country to identify and implement with greater financial and policy support such food production and rural development programmes as are best suited to its specific national and regional characteristics and circumstances;
3. Calls on the international and bilateral agencies to review their criteria for financial and other assistance to rural development by placing increased emphasis on the involvement of people in all rural development activities.

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Draft Resolution III

FERTILIZERS

The World Food Conference,

Stressing the paramount urgency of easing the shortage of fertilizers in developing countries, and the need for taking appropriate measures to ensure adequate supplies of fertilizers at reasonable prices, keeping in view the action already taken by the FAO Council in pursuance of the ECOSOC resolution and the emergency plan of operation and the establishment of a "Fertilizer Pool",

Taking note of the proposal by Sri Lanka and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for setting up a world fertilizer fund, and of the proposal by Mexico for establishing a World Bank of Food, Agricultural Inputs Supply and Research to ensure, inter alia, the availability of scarce agricultural inputs like fertilizers,

1. Recommends that international institutions and bilateral aid programmes give high priority to the provision of financial assistance to developing countries for imports of fertilizer feedstocks and fertilizers, and take other steps necessary to ease the shortage of fertilizer in developing countries;
2. Recommends that FAO, UNIDO and IBRD jointly organize a programme to assist developing countries to improve the efficiency of their fertilizer plant operations, coordinating where necessary, with the bilateral aid agencies providing assistance for this purpose;
3. Urges international institutions and bilateral aid agencies to expand financial and technical support for programmes to build new fertilizer production capacity as necessary in countries that possess natural gas, phosphate rock or other natural resources, such as coal, and in other developing countries where specific local factors justify such investment;
4. Requests interested countries and parties to actively explore possibilities of devising cooperative ventures in the fertilizer field between oil exporting countries, established fertilizer producers and other developing countries with a view to promoting more economic and stable systems of fertilizer production and supply, and to consider any other measures as necessary to channel adequate investments in the field of fertilizers;
5. Requests that all countries should introduce policies and measures for the promotion of the most efficient and effective use of available fertilizers including the application of chemical fertilizers and alternative sources of plant nutrients, with a view to increasing food production;
6. Recommends that the international efforts to transfer technology particularly at the intermediate level for the efficient use of fertilizers be strengthened, including the training of farmers and improvement of extension services in developing countries and research efforts on methods of increasing soil fertility and plant growth through development of improved chemical fertilizers, greater utilization of organic fertilizers and biological fixation of nitrogen.

Draft Resolution IV

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

The World Food Conference,

Considering the vital role that agricultural research in and for the developing countries will continue to play in the expansion of agricultural production,

Expressing its concern at the inadequate amount of basic and adaptive research in certain fields, especially in respect of agricultural technology suited to tropical conditions and semi-arid and rainfed areas,

Affirming its conviction that the strengthening of agricultural research and its extension to farmers must be accorded a priority merited by its vital role in providing new and important tools for expanding food production;

1. Urges the governments of developing countries to examine the scope of their national agricultural research programmes with a view to greatly enlarging the budgets for them and thus covering priority areas more adequately;
2. Requests the concerned national and international institutions to intensify research in order to create fresh opportunities for significantly increased production of food in developing countries, looking at the possibilities of new as well as traditional food crops and livestock systems, and also to investigate problems connected with the opening up of new lands and with increasing the efficiency of water and fertilizer utilization;
3. Recommends that the resources of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research be substantially enlarged to enable it to augment the number and scope of international centres;
4. Recommends that larger resources be made available to international centres and national research institutes of developed and developing countries for the training of developing countries' manpower for research and related activities;
5. Recommends that national and international expenditure on agricultural research in and for developing countries should be increased three to fourfold (in real terms) by 1985 to attain a level of at least US\$1,250 million per annum.

Draft Resolution V

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE NUTRITION

The World Food Conference,

Considering that large numbers of people, particularly the less advantaged in the developing countries, are affected by protein-calorie malnutrition, and other nutritional deficiencies, which have severe adverse effects on their health, ability to work, and general well-being,

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Recognizing that this situation is mainly the result of widespread poverty, stemming from inadequate institutional and social structures and an unsatisfactory rate of economic growth, which lead to a large proportion of unemployment and underemployment, and to large numbers with inadequate incomes,

Recognizing that the amount of information on malnutrition and food consumption patterns available in developing countries is insufficient,

Considering that the daily food intake of many millions of people in developing nations - particularly of children and mothers - needs to be urgently increased through a range of special feeding programmes; and that a substantial part of the additional food required for these purposes will have to be obtained through external food aid, both multilateral and bilateral,

Recognizing that malnutrition is not only the consequence of an insufficient diet but also of infectious diseases and lack of environmental sanitation with which poverty is generally associated, and that deficiencies of vitamin A, iodine, iron/folate and vitamin D constitute a serious health problem in a large number of countries,

Recognizing, furthermore, that special efforts are required to educate the consumers on the value of foods of high nutritive content as well as on the importance of child-breast-feeding practices, and to protect them against health hazards and commercial frauds, through appropriate legislation and food control measures,

Considering the need for improving consumption patterns in all countries, to tackle the problems of overconsumption in certain countries or among certain groups,

Emphasizing that all action programmes aiming at the nutritional improvement of the population should form part of sound and coherent national food and nutrition policies, which should receive high priority in national plans for socio-economic development,

Recommends:

1. That all governments and the international community should undertake to initiate all possible efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition and to improve consumption patterns, through the adoption of concerted food and nutrition plans and policies, integrated into the national socio-economic development plans and programmes;
2. That, in order to provide a solid basis for such plans and policies, systematic attempts should be made to locate and quantify, as far as possible, the extent and degree of malnutrition in the various socio-economic groups in the rural and urban areas, and that targets for improving the nutritional status of the disadvantaged groups of the population within a specific time period should be established by each government;
3. That governments, with the food, financial and technical assistance from multilateral or bilateral external sources, should initiate new or strengthen existing feeding programmes, on a scale large enough to cover a substantial part of the vulnerable groups on a continuing basis;

4. That, as a minimum initial target, supplementary food should be provided to at least one quarter of the number of children that are estimated to be suffering from malnutrition, and that UNICEF, with the cooperation of WFP and other interested international agencies and non-governmental organizations, formulate a concrete programme for this purpose for consideration and financial support by governments;
5. That FAO, WHO, WFP, UNICEF and IBRD with the cooperation of other agencies and interested non-governmental organizations should prepare an integrated project proposal for supplementary feeding of all vulnerable and needy groups of the population in a number of least developed countries who wish to give priority to such programmes in the context of national food and nutrition policies, indicating resources and management requirements; the draft proposal to be communicated to the FAO Council at its mid-1975 session through its Food and Nutrition Policy Committee, and to the governing bodies of the other interested agencies;
6. That governments should take action to strengthen the basic health services and improve environmental conditions, and to implement programmes aimed at promoting and protecting the nutritional status of pregnant mothers, infants and pre-school children, and at providing treatment and rehabilitation to those suffering from protein-energy malnutrition, and that, with assistance of WHO, other international agencies concerned and non-governmental organizations, they should establish a worldwide control programme aimed at substantially reducing deficiencies of vitamin A, iodine, iron/folate and vitamin D within a period of ten years;
7. That governments should take action to strengthen and modernize consumer education services, including training for these, as well as their food legislation and food control programmes aiming at the protection of the consumer, and that they increase their support of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the development of international food standards and codes of practices;
8. The development of an internationally coordinated joint FAO/WHO food contamination monitoring programme, to assess the type, extent and level of contamination in man's food in different parts of the world, and provide early information to the national authorities for appropriate action.

#### Draft Resolution VI

#### FOOD INFORMATION SYSTEM

##### The World Food Conference,

Recognising that the capacity of governments to take prompt and appropriate measures to deal with food shortages depends to a large extent on the timely availability of adequate information concerning the current and prospective crop and food situation,

Stressing the urgent need for establishing a world-wide food information system which would aim at (a) identifying countries or regions where acute food shortages are thought to be imminent; (b) monitoring world food supply-demand conditions so as to enable governments to take timely and appropriate measures; and (c) contributing to the effective functioning of the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security,

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Recognising the important role of a comprehensive, timely and adequate flow of information on the situation and prospects of crops and livestock products, stocks, prices, export availabilities, import requirements, agricultural inputs supplies, weather conditions and forecasts, plant diseases, pests and other relevant matters, in ensuring world food security and market stability in a constantly changing food and agriculture situation,

Noting the wide support by governments for expanding the existing information arrangements into a more comprehensive and global system, and the importance of improving and strengthening the information functions of FAO, International Wheat Council and other international organisations concerned with food and agriculture,

Welcoming the action being taken by FAO to strengthen its food information and early warning system following a decision by the FAO Conference in 1973,

1. Decides to establish a World-wide Information System on Food and Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as the "System");
2. Requests all governments to participate in the System and extend full cooperation to it by furnishing, on a regular basis, as much information as possible on crop and livestock conditions and other relevant aspects of their food supply and demand situation affecting world food security, and also to take steps, where necessary, to amplify and otherwise improve their data collection services in these fields;
3. Requests FAO and WHO to assist interested governments with technical assistance on particular aspects of strengthening existing arrangements for data collection in the fields of food production, input supplies and meteorology;
4. Requests FAO, in cooperation with other concerned international organisations including the International Wheat Council, to formulate arrangements necessary for the establishment of a global Food Information System, and to submit them for final approval by participating governments;
5. Requests that the information thus collected be fully analysed and disseminated where necessary on a confidential basis, to governments in the form of a periodical bulletin or bulletins giving a comprehensive picture of the world food situation and future prospects;
6. Requests the World Meteorological Organization, in cooperation with FAO (a) to provide, as a part of the Early Warning System, regular assessments of current and recent weather on the basis of the information presently assembled through the World Weather Watch, so as to identify agriculturally significant changes in weather patterns; (b) to consider establishing a joint research project to investigate weather/crop relationships; (c) to assess the need to strengthen the present global weather monitoring systems in regard to the adequacy of meteorological observations which are of special importance to agriculture; and (d) to encourage research on assessing the probability of adverse weather conditions in various key agricultural areas of the world, and on obtaining a better understanding of the causes of climatic variations.



Draft Resolution VII

INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

The World Food Conference,

Stressing the urgent need for ensuring the availability at all times of adequate world supplies of basic foodstuffs, primarily cereals, so as to avoid acute food shortages in the event of widespread crop failure or natural disasters and to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption, particularly in countries with low levels of per caput intake,

Recognising that very low levels of world food stocks pose a serious threat to consumption and make the world too dependent on the vagaries of weather,

Welcoming the progress already made through FAO towards developing a common approach for attaining the objectives of world food security,

Reaffirming the common responsibility of the entire international community in evolving policies and arrangements designed to ensure world food security, and in particular in maintaining adequate national stocks especially of cereals, as envisaged in the International Undertaking on Food Security,

Recognising that universal participation of all producing and consuming countries is essential for the achievement of the global objectives of world food security, and stressing the importance of adherence to the Undertaking by all governments,

1. Invites the appropriate intergovernmental bodies of FAO to complete as soon as possible the operational and other practical arrangements required for the implementation of the International Undertaking, collaborating as appropriate with other international organizations concerned;
2. Invites governments of major cereals producing, consuming and trading countries, to participate in negotiations as soon as possible in appropriate international fora with a view to establishing a system of international grain reserves that would impart a greater degree of stability to markets for grains;
3. Urges governments and the concerned international organisations to provide additional technical and financial assistance on specially favourable terms to develop and implement appropriate national food stock policies in developing countries within the priorities of their national development programme.

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Draft Resolution VIII

AN IMPROVED POLICY FOR FOOD AID

The World Food Conference,

Stressing the importance of evolving a longer-term food aid policy as an essential element in world food security as a means of improving nutrition, meeting emergency needs and as a useful component of international development assistance,

Recognizing that food aid and food transfers on concessional terms from developed to developing countries will continue to be needed in the foreseeable future,

Affirming the need for continuity of a minimum level of food aid supplies in physical terms in order to insulate food aid programmes from the disturbing effect of production adjustment programmes and price fluctuations,

Noting that unforeseen and uncontrollable events will from time to time create situations requiring action by the international community to prevent famines or serious food shortages in the affected countries or regions,

1. Recommends that donor countries accept and implement the concept of forward planning of food aid, preferably on a three year basis, and agree to provide, in physical terms, at least 10 million tons of grains as food aid every year and to evolve supplementary arrangements for other food commodities, such as oils, oilseeds and dairy products;
2. Requests donor governments to (a) channel a larger proportion of food aid through the World Food Programme, (b) increase progressively the grant component in their bilateral food aid programmes, (c) consider contributing part of any food aid repayments for supplementary nutrition programmes and emergency relief;
3. Requests Governments to evolve effective arrangements for the coordination of bilateral and multilateral food aid programmes;
4. Recommends that developed countries earmark emergency food stocks, as an integral part of world food security policy;
5. Recommends that, in addition, in order to strengthen multilateral arrangements for dealing with these emergencies, an international grain reserve of 500,000 tons should be created with provision for regular replenishment and requests FAO in cooperation with the World Food Programme, UN, and other concerned organizations to formulate concrete proposals for creating such a reserve.

Draft Resolution IX

STABILIZATION OF FOOD PRICES AND MARKETS

The World Food Conference,

Recognizing the interdependence between the world food problem and international trade, and the important role which trade can play in the solution of the food problem,

Bearing in mind that the instability in the world agricultural markets as reflected in excessive fluctuations of prices and the uncertainty about availability of agricultural products in world markets benefits neither the producer nor the consumer,

Bearing in mind also that this instability seriously affects the planning of export opportunities and of import requirements,

Considering the need for stability in world markets for food, taking full account in this respect of the interests of developing importing countries which cannot afford high prices for their imports and the interests of developing exporting countries to have access to markets for their exports and recalling in this connexion the UN General Assembly Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

Bearing in mind also the activities of those international organizations such as UNCTAD, GATT and FAO which have a direct or indirect concern with the question of market and price stabilization,

1. Affirms the importance of attaining greater market stability in agricultural trade and the necessity of intergovernmental cooperation in avoiding undue fluctuations in the prices of basic foodstuffs;
2. Calls upon governments within the framework of the appropriate organizations, to formulate effective international arrangements, including the establishment and coordination of reserve stocks for basic cereals with the aim of providing market stability within the framework of orderly trade expansion whilst giving particular attention to the special needs of developing countries as importers and exporters.

Draft Resolution X

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ADJUSTMENT

The World Food Conference,

Recognizing that few countries are fully self-sufficient in food and that trade in food and food products will remain an important component in the solution of the world food problem,

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Emphasizing the urgent need for food deficit developing countries to have available food imports at stable and reasonable prices,

Underlining the importance of expansion of markets for food exports, particularly by developing countries,

Recognizing the role of ongoing activities, especially in UNCTAD, FAO and GATT,

Endorsing the view expressed by the FAO Conference that increasing interdependence of the economies of individual countries necessitates a global concept of agricultural adjustment,

1. Requests UNCTAD and other agencies concerned to intensify their efforts in the field of access to markets and pricing policies with a view to achieving satisfactory terms of trade of developing countries with particular reference to trade in food and food products;
2. Requests all governments, particularly in the context of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations of GATT, to give priority to the elimination of all restrictions in international commerce which unduly impede the growth of trade, especially in the food products of the developing countries with the rest of the world;
3. Emphasizes the importance of providing better opportunities to developing countries to secure a larger share in the world trade in foodstuffs, e.g. through the utilization of a proportion of cash resources available for the financing of multilateral or bilateral food aid programmes for purchases of these products from other developing countries;
4. Stresses the need for assistance to developing countries in cases of balance of payments difficulties arising from fluctuations in export receipts and import costs;
5. Reaffirms the importance given by the member countries of the FAO to international agricultural adjustment and the need for governments to work together toward greater consistency in their national and regional policies bearing on future changes in food and agriculture; and
6. Requests the Director-General of the FAO to take full account of the discussions and recommendations of the World Food Conference in formulating and implementing the proposed strategy of international agricultural adjustment.

ANNEX VIII

Draft resolution submitted by Yugoslavia to replace draft resolutions IX and X prepared by the Secretariat contained in Annex VII

INTERNATIONAL FOOD TRADE, ACCESS TO MARKETS, PRICES  
AND STABILIZATION

The World Food Conference,

Recognizing the interdependence between the world food problem and international trade, and the role which trade can play in solving the food problem,

Bearing in mind that the international trade of agricultural, and especially food products has been mostly, and often unreasonably, restricted by various tariff and non-tariff barriers as well as by other restrictions which impose a heavy burden on the balance of payments of developing countries,

Considering that the instability in the world's agricultural and food markets, reflected in excessive fluctuations in supply and prices, has a negative impact on the economies of the developing countries,

Having noted that the export prices of cereals and some other important foodstuffs have reached an extremely high level, due to lower supply but partly also as a result of speculative activities in the world's market which are becoming unbearable to most of the food importing developing countries,

Bearing in mind that the foreign exchange earnings of the majority of developing countries are predominantly dependent on exports of agricultural and food products,

Accepting as an urgent need, a substantial improvement in terms of trade of developing countries and expansion of their share in the world trade and economy,

Recognizing the necessity of establishing a just, remunerative and stable price level for the food and agricultural products exported by the developing countries with the aim of achieving a more equitable distribution of income in the world,

Endorsing the view expressed by the FAO Conference that increasing interdependence of the economies of individual countries necessitates a global and regional concept of agricultural adjustment,

Bearing in mind also the objectives and activities of international organizations, such as UNCTAD, GATT and FAO, in finding solutions to problems of access to markets, stabilization and relation of prices, and noting the vital importance and priority of food problems, clear guidelines and stronger support should be given to these organizations,

1. Calls upon all governments of the world to develop a less restricted international food trade, combined with measures which should prevent speculative practices aimed at destabilization of markets and attaining of extra profits;

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2. Requests the governments of food exporting countries to ensure the supply of cereals and other important foodstuffs to developing countries in need, at reasonable prices and, where necessary, under favourable financial terms;

3. Calls upon governments within the framework of appropriate organizations, notably UNCTAD, GATT and FAO, to formulate effective international arrangements with the aim of providing an equitable level of prices as well as market stability, giving particular attention to the special need of developing countries as importers and exporters;

4. Requests the responsible international bodies - UNCTAD, GATT, FAO and others, to speed up the work and to give the highest possible priority to the consideration and finding of urgent solutions for elimination of restrictions in international trade which unduly impede the access of agricultural and food products of developing countries to the markets of the developed countries;

5. Requests the governments of developed countries immediately to substantially decrease, and later to remove progressively, all tariff and non-tariff barriers as well as other restrictive practices on food and agricultural products, on a preferential, non-reciprocal basis;

6. Requests the World Food Programme and other international organizations responsible, to utilize a growing proportion of cash resources available for multi-lateral and bilateral food aid for purchases in developing countries, with the aim of securing and stimulating a larger share of the developing countries in the world trade of foodstuffs;

7. Suggests to the IMF, IBRD and other multilateral organizations concerned to consider the need for giving easier conditions for compensatory assistance in case of balance of payments difficulties arising from fluctuations in external receipts and payments for food and operation of food stocks, support initiatives designed to provide longer-term financial assistance to developing countries, particularly with respect to balance of payment difficulties resulting from unfavourable terms of trade;

8. Requests that FAO take full account of the discussions and recommendations of the World Food Conference when drafting the proposed strategy of international agricultural adjustment so that this can be one of the important elements in the follow-up of decisions and recommendations of the World Food Conference.

ANNEX IX

Proposal of Peru

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER

PREAMBLE

The grave food crisis that is afflicting the peoples of countries in the developing world in particular and the one approaching in the near future for all mankind is not only fraught with grave economic and social implications for the world, but also acutely jeopardizes the most fundamental principles and values associated with the right to life and human dignity as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Paradoxically, at a time when the more highly industrialized nations of the world are achieving once unimaginable technological and scientific advances of far-reaching significance, in the world of today millions of human beings languish under the scourge of hunger and the deprivations of malnutrition, excluded from any share in that prosperity and well-being. Entire peoples in developing countries are suffering, and others are probably doomed to suffer, the hunger that follows in the wake of natural calamities and other emergency situations, from which many of them have no means of protection.

The adversity of the peoples so afflicted is not caused by contingent situations alone, but rather is essentially a consequence of under development, of lingering economic and technological dependence on the industrial powers, of the baneful effects of colonialism in the past and neocolonialism in the present, the occupation of territories and the inadmissible conditions imposed by racial discrimination and apartheid in today's world.

It has not yet been possible to set up machinery that could successfully ensure adequate world security in the production and supplying of food to respond to these situations of need.

Increased food production is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for eliminating hunger and malnutrition so long as it remains unaccompanied by coercive measures to guarantee the improvement of levels of employment and equitable income distribution.

Alive to their responsibility to the peoples they represent and to the part that the World Food Conference of the United Nations is called upon to play, and convinced that the elimination of the causes of this situation are the joint and several responsibility of all nations,

the undersigned solemnly declare as follows:

1. Every human being is entitled to a supply of food sufficient in quantity and quality for the full development of his physical and mental faculties.



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Accordingly, the eradication of hunger is a joint and several responsibility of all the countries of the international community.

2. It is the responsibility of each State, in accordance with its sovereign judgement and internal legislation, to remove the obstacles to agricultural production, particularly that of food, and diligently to further policies that will assure a fair distribution of income. Of capital importance for the attainment of these objectives is the reform of structures for the ownership, tenure, use and exploitation of land, supplemented by technical and financial support to farmers. It is incumbent upon every state to cooperate towards the realization of these reforms.
3. The increasing of food production demands the combined effort of all members of the international community. The efforts of the developing countries in this direction should be matched by the application of international trade policies that include the elimination of subsidies and artificial incentives to production in highly industrialized countries, the establishment of remunerative prices and ease of access to international markets.
4. To give impetus to their food production, the developing countries have the right to receive continually from the developed countries technical and financial assistance on favourable conditions and in a considerable volume sufficient to their needs. This assistance must be unencumbered by any condition that infringes on the sovereignty and internal jurisdiction of the receiving States.
5. It is a duty of every country, and primarily of the highly industrialized countries, diligently to promote the advancement of food production technology, to facilitate its unrestricted transfer, adaptation and dissemination, and to give impetus to research for the discovery and utilization of nontraditional avenues of food production.
6. It is incumbent upon the developed countries to collaborate technically and financially with the developing countries to increase the supply of land and water for agricultural production.
7. All countries must pool their efforts to effectively guarantee the preservation of the environment and to assure the proper conservation of natural resources being utilized or utilizable for food production.
8. Within the framework of the machinery established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, all States must strive to the utmost to readjust their agricultural policies to give priority to food production. Regional and subregional economic integration agreements are of decisive importance for these purposes.
9. It shall be a responsibility of the entire international community to maintain food reserves to be available at any time to meet the needs of all nations. To this end, there shall be established within the UN framework food security machinery to provide for the establishment of reserves and to lay

down rules for their administration, clearly distinguishing between those intended for market regulation and those to meet emergencies. Within this machinery, each country will be responsible for the formation and maintenance of national reserves of a magnitude consonant with its production and financial capacities. Developed countries capable of producing foods in excess of their own requirements will establish reserves to be available to countries in which emergencies and hunger are expected owing either to poor harvests, natural calamities or other causes. In keeping with this purpose, the developed countries recognize it as a commitment to the world community to adopt measures aimed at rationalizing their own food consumption.

10. Technological advances that make it possible to forecast harvests and detect climatic disasters in advance must be available to the international community. The United Nations shall establish and operate an information service to report in good time on critical food supply situations. All the States undertake themselves to conduct and firmly to support research to determine the local factors that have led or could lead to an acute food supply crisis.

11. Marine resources are today becoming more important than ever as a new source of food and economic prosperity. Accordingly, action should be taken to promote and assure the rational exploitation of those resources while respecting the sovereign rights of littoral States within the limits of their territorial jurisdiction and taking account of the value of international cooperation to contribute to meeting the food requirements of all peoples.

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ANNEX X

Draft Declaration prepared by the Secretariat in compliance  
with the request made in the Preparatory Committee at its  
Third Session

The World Food Conference,

convened to deal with the

- (1) economic, social and political consequences of the current threat that food shortages and high food prices can cause worldwide catastrophe, and
- (2) the even deeper continuing crisis of chronic hunger and malnutrition for half a billion human beings;

Reaffirms that every human being has the right to a regular supply of food adequate for the full development of his or her potential; and that the widespread failure to provide this assurance, in spite of unprecedented technological advances, represents an intolerable affront to human dignity and seriously undermines solemn pledges embodied in international Declarations, especially:

- (1) Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which proclaims that an adequate amount of food constitutes a basic right of mankind on the same footing as the right to life itself;
- (2) Article 10b of the United Nations Declaration on Progress and Social Development which includes elimination of hunger and malnutrition as one of its objectives; and
- (3) The Declaration of a New International Economic Order, which pledges all countries to work together in a spirit of equality and cooperation to correct the present injustices;

Reaffirms

- (1) the achievement of these aims to be the joint responsibility of human society as a whole, which already possesses resources, organizations, abilities, and "once unimaginable scientific and technological skills" sufficient to the task;
- (2) the overriding concern of people of goodwill the world over for fellow human beings who are hungry and malnourished and the vital roles being played by citizens and citizens' organizations to help meet their needs;

Recognizes

- (1) that most of the world's hungry and malnourished people live in developing countries, where more than two thirds of the world's population produces about one third of the world's food, an imbalance which threatens to widen in the next ten years;

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- (2) that underdevelopment, especially of rural areas, the principal cause of hunger and malnutrition, has been joined in recent years by adverse weather, rising food demand, inflation and monetary problems, the energy crisis, and a shortage of essential agricultural inputs to produce the current situation;
- (3) that the demand for food, as a result of population growth and higher consumption in developing countries and growing affluence in developed countries, is rapidly threatening to overtake man's success in increasing food production;
- (4) that the well-being of the bulk of the world's population, and perhaps the peace and stability of the world itself, hinge on the building up of a dependable system of food security which will ensure adequate availability and reasonable prices of food at all times, irrespective of periodic fluctuations of weather and free of political and economic pressures;
- (5) that the essential longer-term approach for resolving the food problem lies in increasing food production in developing countries, within the broader framework of economic and social development.

Considers

- a) that it is the responsibility of each sovereign nation to provide adequate food for its own people, adopting priorities, policies and programmes designed to reach that objective;
- b) that since nations for a variety of reasons are not always able to meet their own food needs, they may reasonably seek and expect international action to assist them;
- c) that international institutions, as the instruments of the world community, need streamlining to succeed more effectively than in the past to assist nations to deal with the crisis;
- d) that the time is short for launching action and that the situation is worsening even as the Conference meets.

Consequently:

The Governments assembled at the World Food Conference of the United Nations solemnly resolve to initiate immediate and sustained efforts, individually and collectively, toward freeing the world from hunger and from the fear of hunger; and to that end they declare:

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- I. TO ACCEPT THE BASIC OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE FOOD TO ALL MANKIND AS THEIR JOINT AND CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY, AND TO WORK TOGETHER TO EVOLVE A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED WORLD FOOD POLICY OF INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND IMPROVING FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION PATTERNS AND ESTABLISHING SYSTEMS OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY AND WORLD FOOD TRADE CONSISTENT WITH THAT OBJECTIVE;
- II. TO PLEDGE THEIR ENERGIES AND RESOURCES TO THE FULL EXTENT REQUIRED TO ACCELERATE THE RATE OF INCREASE IN FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, INTER-ALIA, BY:
  - (a) setting as a target a 50 percent acceleration in that rate of growth in the next ten years compared with that attained in the preceding ten years;
  - (b) adopting new approaches to agrarian reforms and to the reorganization of rural structures, mobilizing the full potentiality of human resources in developing countries for integrated rural development and involving particularly the small farmers and the landless workers in attaining the required food production and employment targets;
  - (c) assuring a rapid increase in the availability at fair costs of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals, high-quality seeds, irrigation water, agricultural credit and technology which are available to farm people and in the efficiency with which they are used;
  - (d) aiming at a wholly new scale of agricultural development by more than trebling the present volume of national and international investment in agriculture by 1985, by opening up new lands for food production, by harnessing new water resources, by expanding animal husbandry and fisheries significantly and by a massive thrust in agricultural research and its application to the grass roots level.
- III. TO WORK TOGETHER FOR A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD BETWEEN COUNTRIES AND WITHIN COUNTRIES, INITIATING IMMEDIATELY A CONCERTED ATTACK AGAINST CHRONIC MALNUTRITION AMONG THE CHRONICALLY POOR WITH A VIEW TO ELIMINATING ITS HUMAN CONSEQUENCES THROUGH
  - (a) policies aimed at more equitable patterns of distribution of the national product;
  - (b) a massive extension of national group feeding programmes directed toward vulnerable groups and supported by outside food and financial assistance where necessary including a special programme to provide a nourishing diet to as many as possible of the estimated two hundred million undernourished children in the least developed countries; and a drive to eliminate within ten years the greater part of the disease caused directly through certain vitamin and mineral deficiencies;

- (c) the encouragement of nutrition education programmes in all countries to combat malnutrition and overnutrition through balanced diets;

IV. TO COOPERATE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT ON A PERMANENT BASIS OF A SYSTEM OF WORLD SECURITY BY MEANS OF

- (a) implementation of the International Undertaking on World Food Security being evolved in FAO as an instrument for building up and maintaining world-wide security stocks of basic foods to ensure the adequate availability of supplies at all times;
- (b) cooperating within their several capacities in setting up international emergency food reserves;
- (c) participating in the establishment of a world system of food information, weather monitoring and early warning against food shortages;
- (d) establishing food aid on an expanded and assured basis for as long as necessary;
- (e) coordinating their national cereal stock accumulation and disposal policies for stabilization of markets and prices in the context of appropriate international arrangements.

V. TO EXPAND AND PROGRESSIVELY LIBERALIZE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND TO FACILITATE THE EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES BY MEANS OF

- (a) intergovernmental negotiations aimed at enlarging markets, removing trade barriers and stabilizing prices, including special measures to increase the exports of food importing countries to enhance their capacity to import food;
- (b) a framework of international agricultural adjustment on the lines proposed by FAO to achieve greater consistency between national and international agricultural policies.

VI. TO STRENGTHEN OR ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR

- (a) coordinating international activities in the interrelated fields of food production, food security and food aid;
- (b) monitoring the world food situation, prospects and adjustment requirements;
- (c) regularly reviewing the progress being made in the implementation of several policies and strategies recommended by this Conference in order to take such remedial and strengthening action as may be required from time to time, thereby demonstrating their firm intention to pursue the high purposes of this Declaration until the world's food problem has been finally and equitably resolved.

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VII. TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE THAT ALL ASPECTS OF FOOD PROBLEMS MUST BE TREATED AS BASIC HUMAN PROBLEMS, AND NOT ON THE BASIS OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS.

VIII. TO INVITE PEOPLE OF GOODWILL IN ALL COUNTRIES AND ESPECIALLY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS, MANKIND'S PROVIDERS OF FOOD, AND ALL THOSE SUPPLYING THEM WITH PRODUCTION REQUISITES TO SUPPORT THE MEASURES HERE AGREED UPON AND THE IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND TO INTENSIFY THEIR OWN EFFORTS THROUGH THEIR OWN ORGANIZATIONS TO DEAL WITH THE SCOURGE OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

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